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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

True or false: How incumbent lawmakers will vote on the articles of impeachment against Gov. Fitial will influence my vote this November.

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INSIDE

NATION



President Obama accuses Mitt Romney of peddling a "sketchy" fix for the economy. **► PAGE 13**

ASIA



Chinese warships enter islands at the center of a heated territory dispute. **► PAGE 14**

LIFE & STYLE



Just the mention of her name, J.K. Rowling, had the audience on its feet. **► PAGE 17**

Health corporation board members clash. **PAGE 3**
Guilty verdict for Grandpa Ping. **PAGE 5**

WITH ONLY 9 'YES' VOTES

Impeachment bid fails



A large crowd of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial supporters and those who support impeaching him crowd the House of Representatives lobby, chamber, and hallways on Capital Hill yesterday for a historic vote on a resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A milestone resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty failed to pass yesterday's tension-filled House of Representatives session that lasted until almost 8:30pm, securing only nine of 14 "yes" votes needed. But all is not lost as far as the movers of the impeachment are concerned.

The vote on the main motion to adopt the minority bloc's House Resolution 17-111, the impeachment measure, didn't happen until 8:20pm.

At 8:22pm, the impeachment resolu-

tion was defeated with 10 voting "no" and nine voting "yes," with one absence.

The session lasted more than five hours starting at 3pm, an hour later than the original schedule of 2pm, consisting

of almost three hours of debates among members and several calls for recess, and almost two hours of public comments from 32 individuals at the beginning of the session.

Pro- and anti-impeachment supporters crowded the House chamber, lobby, and hallways, spilling into the front of the legislative building. Most of those supporting the governor showed up in red shirts or blouses.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero, in a brief interview after the session last night, said he's "disappointed" with the outcome and the "ultimate cover up" that the House leadership showed when it refused to grant a few

See FAILS on Page 4

HOW THEY VOTED

House Resolution 17-111, impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, is defeated.

YES

1. House minority leader **Joe Deleon Guerrero**
2. Rep. **Ray Tebuteb**
3. Rep. **Frank Dela Cruz**
4. Rep. **Tony Sablan**
5. Rep. **Ray Yumul**
6. Rep. **Janet Maratita**
7. Rep. **Trenton Conner**
8. Rep. **Ralph Demapan**
9. Rep. **Edmund Villagomez**

NO

1. Speaker **Eli Cabrera**
2. Vice speaker **Felicidad Ogomoro**
3. Floor leader **George Camacho**
4. Rep. **Ray Basa**
5. Rep. **Fred Deleon Guerrero**
6. Rep. **Sylvester Iguel**
7. Rep. **Joe Palacios**
8. Rep. **Ray Palacios**
9. Rep. **Teresita Santos**
10. Rep. **Stanley Torres**

OFF-ISLAND

1. Rep. **Froilan Tenorio**
(on medical leave)

Elderly at Aging Center in an uproar

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Emotions flared up at the Aging Center in Garapan Wednesday morning following reports that the contract of program coordinator Walter Manglona was not renewed, jeopardizing the Christmas CD album and other upcoming projects and activities of the *man'amko* who threatened to stage a walkout.

In the course of yesterday's commotion, accusations surfaced that the alleged non-renewal was a "political retaliation" resulting from

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Local

CHC projects revenue to reach \$34M this fiscal year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The financially challenged Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. expects to rake in \$34.7 million in revenue from October this year to September next year.

Corporation COO Esther Muna, who is also the chief financial officer, disclosed that starting this fiscal year, the indirect cost usually received by the general fund in administering federal hospital grants will be transferred to the corporation after a memorandum of agreement was signed with the Executive Branch.

The indirect cost is the

amount used to administer a federal grant. For many years, the money has gone directly to the general fund. Muña said that starting this fiscal year, the indirect cost—amounting to \$938,934—will go to the corporation.

Muna said the formal transition, along with the necessary staff training, is expected to be completed within the month.

Included in the \$34.7 million projected revenue is the budget allocated by the Legislature, which is \$1.9 million, and the Medicaid share, which is approximately \$848,000 per month.

The corporation recently enforced a new master charge that

increased hospital fees. Coupled with increased reimbursement from Medicaid, Muña said the anticipated revenue this fiscal year is \$32 million.

“We made some revenue projections and we made sure it’s a balanced budget compared to the expenditures we’re assuming for 2013,” said Muña.

Also included in the “balanced budget” is the \$5 million “discounts and allowances” prepared for insurance companies. “We have not made the decision yet [on insurance companies’ discounts], but it’s something to assume for next fiscal year. We also accounted the possibility of indigent care that would be lost,” she told the board.

Other areas that are expected to generate revenue for the hospital are public health services, medical records, health certificates, and rental incomes.

RIF to continue

Despite the balanced budget this fiscal year, CEO Juan N. Babauta said he remains an advocate

of a reduction-in-force for the top-heavy organization.

He said he wants to trim the hospital’s non-essential and administrative staff and add more employees to critical units such as clinicians.

Corporation board vice chair Pete Dela Cruz said the new budget document can be pro-

vided to the Marianas Public Land Trust to justify the organization’s paying capability on its loans.

MPLT has yet to release the \$7 million additional line of credit because it is waiting for financial records that would prove the corporation’s ability to repay the loan.

Ex-DJ ordered to stay away from Power 99

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered yesterday a former disc jockey of Power 99 Studio to stay away from the radio station.

Wiseman issued the directive after Power 99 general manager Tina Palacios filed a complaint with the Department of Public Safety on Monday that Aziz Peter Mettao has been lurking near the radio station.

Mettao is accused of setting fire to the company’s vehicle, just days after being sacked from his job.

Palacios told police that she is still worried for her studio and

the employees, knowing that Mettao is no longer in detention.

With the complaint, chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley asked the court to impose an additional distance requirement on the court’s current no contact order.

On Sept. 17, 2012, the court modified Mettao’s bail by lowering the cash requirement to \$1,000 instead of \$10,000. The judge also required the defendant to have no direct or indirect contact with Power 99, among other conditions.

In the government’s request for bail modification, Prestley said there was an earlier allegation that Mettao kept calling the radio station.

Prestley said he already at-

tempted to handle that allegation by asking the suspect’s lawyer to warn him to quit the behavior.

“Nevertheless, the defendant seems to persist in testing the limits of his pretrial release,” the chief prosecutor said.

Mettao denied the allegations.

Mettao is accused of setting fire to a silver Hyundai Tucson owned by Power 99 on Sept. 10, 2012.

A witness saw a man, later identified as Mettao, throwing something to the left rear window of the vehicle. The witness saw the suspect throwing a bottle inside the car, triggering a fire inside the vehicle.

CLOSE UP YOUTH SUMMIT OPENS

Youths pay attention to immigration, healthcare, education challenges

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

About 60 high school students from public and private institutions took part yesterday in the kickoff ceremony for the annual Close Up Youth Summit, where participants articulated their willingness to take part in identifying solutions to the most pressing issues on island.

RELATED NEWS

► **Sablan welcomes students to Close Up Summit.**

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Top among their concerns are immigration issues in the CNMI, the alarming state of the healthcare system, and challenges facing the education sector.

For 16-year-old Marianas High School student Edward Hofschneider, young citizens have a social responsibility to be involved in issues affecting them and their families. He said the alarming state of the healthcare

system and the lack of support for education are among the important things that each and every young citizen must think about.

During breakout sessions, each participating groups were given an opportunity to freely identify all issues that they feel need attention or change.

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, herself a first-time attendee to the summit, said she was pleased to see that

See **YOUTHS** on Page 4

BMV still closed

Many motorists who want to renew their driver’s licenses and car registrations are wondering when the Department of Public Safety’s Bureau of Motor Vehicle is going to resume operations.

BMV has been closed since last week. Last Tuesday, Oct. 9, DPS announced that BMV will be closed until Monday, Oct. 15. At the time, DPS explained that the closure was due to inclement weather and technical issues, which has delayed infrastructure and security improvement work at BMV.

On Monday, *Saipan Tribune* saw some people going to BMV, only to be greeted by a big “BMV close” sign at its parking lot.

“They said they are going to open Monday, but it’s still closed. It’s a waste of our gas and time to come here only to



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Department of Public Safety’s Bureau of Motor Vehicle has been closed since last week due to technical issues. BMV was set to reopen on Monday, but unexpected factors reportedly caused another delay.

learn BMV is still closed. They should announce it through the media, as simple as that,” a visibly disappointed motorist said.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the upgrade at BMV is still ongoing.

“There were unexpected factors that led to technical difficulties in meeting the projected time frame,” he said.

Tarkong said BMV will remain closed until further notice. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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DUE TO PERSONAL DIFFERENCES, VARYING OPINIONS:

Health corporation board members clash at meeting

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A supposed "meeting of minds" called yesterday by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board turned into a heated exchange, with board members shouting each other down just minutes after the meeting was called to order at 11am.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres presided over the meeting with the intention to finish in order all items on the agenda that included seven proposed resolutions on specific corporation issues.

Tension among and between board members soon became evident, however, just minutes into the meeting, mainly due to a number of disagreements on several issues involving the operations of the Commonwealth Health Center.

The arguments started when board member Anthony Raho made a motion to amend the meeting agenda and cited additional "important items" that he believes the board needs to discuss in the open.

These include the status of Medicare citations on CHC and the responses of the corporation, the employment contract of CEO Juan N. Babauta that Raho said was not approved or endorsed by the

board, the director for Medical Affairs position that was vacated by Dr. Dan Lamar, and the critical staffing needs at the hospital as conveyed to the board by hospital director Karen Buettner in an email.

Torres told Raho, however, that those items are already covered by the agenda and would mostly be tackled in a closed-door discussion. Among these is the issue about the CEO's contract.

"I would agree that the [CEO contract] should be discussed in executive session. However, under the Open Government Act, discussion about the salary of a public servant should be open to the public," Raho said.

"Well, that's your opinion," said Torres, adding that Raho's motion was not appropriate "at this time." The chairman also refused to hear Raho's attempt to read Public Law 8-41 that explains the law's provision.

"How about the DMA situation? Why would that be in executive session?" Raho asked.

"Because the chair said so... if you object, raise that objection!" snapped Torres, adding that Raho's motion was already "out of order." He encouraged board members to just vote on the issue.

Tinian board member Anthony Aguon, for his part, ques-

tioned why the legal counsel was not present. "I think we need a legal counsel here because you're trying to break the law and I don't think that's a good idea!" Aguon stated, visibly angering Torres.

"So you're saying that as chairman [of the board], you're above the law [OGA]?" Aguon asked Torres.

To ease the tension, vice chair Pete Dela Cruz suggested a five-minute break for all six members to patch things up.

However, the short break was unsuccessful after loud voices were overheard from the closed-door session.

Saipan Tribune later saw

Torres with member Roy Rios, who had left the boardroom and confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the heated arguments that ensued inside. It was learned that Aguon and Torres were the ones engaged in the heated conversation.

Aguon was later seen leaving the boardroom with Babauta and Raho while the Tinian representative was getting the copy of the "recorded conversation" of the board.

The five-minute break was extended and the meeting resumed at about 1:30pm yesterday.

Members, when asked for comments after the closed-door meeting, were mum on the issue.

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RFP out soon for design of proposed middle school gym

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Public School System plan to issue a request for proposal for the A&E design for a gymnasium that will be built as part of a new middle school in Koblerville.

Jeannie P. Mafnas, NMHC planner and grant writer, said the RFP will be issued by the first week of November.

"Until a proposal is submitted, we should be able to gauge the specifics [of the project] with regards to timeline," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the gymnasium will be similar to the one that Marianas High School has.

Mafnas said that NMHC put in writing its two-year funding commitment for the proposed middle school, which seeks to address the student overcrowding issue at Hopwood Jr. High School in Chalan Piao.

She said the funding commitment basically states that approximately \$1.2 million worth of Community Development Block Grant funds for Program Year 2011 and 2012 will be allocated to the PSS for the A&E design and construction of the gymnasium on the Koblerville campus.

Mafnas noted that PSS continues to seek funds for the con-

struction of actual classroom facilities.

"The NMHC will draft a sub-recipient agreement (standard for all CDBG-funded projects) concurrently with the RFP," she said via email. "The agreement will outline the budget and the roles and responsibilities of the Grantee (NMHC) and the Sub-grantee (PSS)."

Mafnas said the CNMI is given a two-year period to commit the CDBG funding and five years to spend the entire funding, emphasizing that the money should be spent "in a timely manner" given the timeliness test given to NMHC every Aug. 2 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Basically, when a timeliness test is conducted, the balance should be less than two times the current grant amount," she explained.

HUD provides the Northern Marianas with various grants administered by the NMHC, including CDBG which is a flexible program established in 1974 to provide communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

NMHC has until 2016 to spend its CDBG funding to build at the very least a "usable facility" or else pay back the full amount to the federal government.

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FAILS

From Page 1

days' extension to review the committee report based on evidence.

"All the while there's been a pattern of abuse of power and cover up. One cover up after another. The cover up involves law enforcement officers—the Department of Public Safety, whose officers pleaded the Fifth Amendment, the Office of the Attorney General, and tonight, the House leadership. They didn't want to wait for the committee report on each of the articles of impeachment and the evidence," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero is the main author of the impeachment resolution, along with six other minority bloc members.

Rep. Tony Sablan, also a co-author of the impeachment resolution, said "as consolation, the mere fact that the impeachment resolution has reached this stage should be an undeniable testimony and a clear warning for those who blatantly abuse and disregard the rule of law, that there are those in the community who are willing to stand up and defend the idea that we are a society of law, and that those who think or act otherwise might not be so lucky the next time."

'Historic moment'

CNMI historian Sam McPhetres, a former faculty member at Northern Marianas College, said yesterday's session to vote on an impeachment "is a very historic moment, win or lose."

This is the first time in CNMI history that a resolution to impeach a governor was formally introduced, taken up by a special committee for a month, and voted on by the full House of Representatives.

Had the resolution passed the House, it would then move to the Senate for trial.

The crowd at the House yesterday was among the largest to watch a House session, like during House inaugural sessions and when a governor delivers a State of the Commonwealth Address.

Slashed tires

Dozens of uniformed police officers and those in plain clothes also provided security and order during the session.

However, at around 5pm, the speaker announced during the session that vehicle tires parked outside the legislative building were slashed.

"We do not tolerate this behavior," he said.

The vehicle whose tires were slashed was one being driven by a private citizen supporting the impeachment resolution, Glen Hunter. The news spread fast through Facebook.

Later, an Office of the Public Auditor vehicle was reported as having a flat tire, but some said it could only be lack of air and was not intentionally slashed.

Motion, rules

It was already past 5pm when House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) made a motion to adopt the impeachment resolution.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) made a subsidiary motion to "withdraw" from the full body HR 17-111 and "refer back" to the Special Committee on Impeachment "until Oct. 24, 2012."

This was seconded by House minority bloc members.

However, the floor leader and other members argued at length on the House rules, particularly Section Rule 10 Sec-

tion 7(c), regarding Dela Cruz's motion.

The argument lasted almost 45 minutes, with the speaker again calling for recess at 5:41pm.

At 6:09pm, the session resumed and Camacho went back to Dela Cruz's subsidiary motion, which the members and legal counsel agreed was proper.

Members voted on Dela Cruz's subsidiary motion, which was narrowly defeated by a vote of 10-9 with one absence.

How they voted

More than two hours later, the vote on the main motion to adopt HR 17-111 reflected the same results.

The 10 who voted "no" to the adoption of HR 17-111 were Reps. Ray Basa, George Camacho, Fred Deleon Guerrero, Sylvester Iguel, vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Joe Palacios, Ray Palacios, Teresita Santos, Stanley Torres, and Speaker Eli Cabrera.

The nine who voted "yes" to the impeachment resolution were Reps. Frank Dela Cruz, Joe Deleon Guerrero, Ralph Demapan, Janet Maratita, Tony Sablan, Ray Tebuteb, Edmund Villagomez, Ray Yumul, and Trenton Conner.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio was absent as he was off-island for medical reasons.

As of 9:17pm last night, an unofficial and unscientific poll on the *Saipan Tribune* website asking voters if how lawmakers will vote on the articles of impeachment against Fitial will influence their vote this November showed 70 who responded yes and 27 who said no.

These allegations involve the temporary release of a federal inmate in January 2010 to give the governor a private massage at his residence, signing of a sole-source, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement for 25 years despite lack of a full economic analysis, a sole-source award of a \$392,406 ARRA management contract, failure to remove his former attorney general despite violations of laws in hosting the governor's delegate candidate, and failure to ensure law enforcement agencies perform their duties of serving—not preventing—penal summons on the same former attorney general, Edward T. Buckingham.

'Waste of time'

Dela Cruz said it is "very unfortunate" that the efforts put in by the committee and Legislative Bureau staffers would be put to waste because the speaker did not grant the committee that he himself created an extension to finish its committee report.

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose this question. Why have you stopped this committee? Is it campaign promises you made to supporters?" he asked Cabrera.

Dela Cruz also asked the speaker his plan on the Special Committee on Impeachment. He said "it appears" the speaker has "circumvented the process."

"Do you want to dissolve this committee so that no report will be filed?" he asked.

The speaker responded, "You were right. We have wasted so much time."

Cabrera said the 30 days given to the committee lapsed but not what he claimed was a "fishing expedition" by the minority bloc.

The speaker also said he had been monitoring the hearings, and said the witnesses have not convinced him that the governor did something wrong. He added that he will dissolve the im-

peachment committee.

Dela Cruz asked whether the sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement is right, and the crowd shouted "order" even before the speaker could react.

Rep. Ralph Demapan then offered a floor amendment to delete Article 1, which is an allegation of felony, related to the temporary release of a federal inmate in January 2010. He said he has 15 floor amendments.

The House went on a short recess again. When the session resumed, Demapan withdrew his floor amendment.

House members again debated some of the articles of impeachment.

2-hour public comments

The session didn't start until 3pm because the House leadership didn't finish its closed-door meeting in the speaker's conference room until shortly before 3pm.

A total of 32 members of the public testified in support or opposition to the impeachment resolution.

They included testimony from former lieutenant governor and representative Diego T. Benavente, Juan S. Reyes, Leila Staffler, Marja Lee Taitano, Ana D. Castro, Sixto Igisomar, Catalino Sanchez, LJ Castro, Susana Blas Deleon Guerrero, Isabela Capati, Pedro Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan, Ben Piteg, Marianne C. Teregeyo, Melvin Faisao, Malua Peter, Glen Hunter, Gregoria R. Fitial Omar, John Oliver Gonzales, Esther Fleming, Ambrosio Ogumoro, Pedro Arriola, Margarita Olopai Taitano, Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero, Ramona Rebuénog, Joaquina T. Mendiola, Tom Tebuteb, Herman Sablan, Diana Esplin, Rich Puhalla, Crispin M. Sablan, and Liana Hofschneider. Another man spoke without identifying himself.

Inside the House gallery and in the lobby, some members of the crowd gave side comments as pro-impeachment members of the community testified before the House.

For example, when concerned citizen Leila Staffler ended her statement that she's from Precinct 5, an anti-impeachment supporter said, "Who cares?" After concerned citizen Rich Puhalla testified in support of the impeachment resolution, an anti-impeachment supporter said, "Go home."

Staffler, in an interview, said she went to Capital Hill to watch the "government in action and to support the impeachment process."

She said she wants to see that the process is met with fidelity "and that people are held accountable for breaking the laws."

Tina I. Kukkun, of Koblerville, said there are "better things to do" than impeach the governor and that the allegations "should be thrown out."

Barbara Rasiang, of Dandan, said she and other family members—about 10 of them—went to Capital Hill to show their support for the governor.

"He's doing his job, he should not be impeached," Rasiang told *Saipan Tribune* moments after the House went into session. She said she learned of the Wednesday vote on the impeachment resolution on Sunday.

Frank B. Camacho, who claimed to be a "proud" supporter of the governor and the Republican Party, said the lawmakers who support impeaching the governor "have nothing better to do."

The critical impeachment vote came days ahead of the Nov. 6 mid-term elections. The governor heads the local Republican Party.

ELDERLY

From Page 1

Manglona's support for the impeachment of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the coordinator's appearance in a paid advertisement on KSPN endorsing the candidacy of Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan for CNMI delegate.

Manglona, in a phone interview, said he was "seriously surprised" when he learned early this week from a reliable source at the Office of Management and Budget that his name and that of another employee, a bus driver, have been crossed out from the employee list and that this action was endorsed by DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao.

Prior to that, Manglona said he found out that Faisao and Aging director Rose Mondala were heard talking about Manglona's Facebook posts that show pro-impeachment sentiments, support for candidates who are not running under the Republican Party where Fitial is president, and a photo that compares Fitial to infamous tyrant rulers throughout the world.

Manglona maintained that he did not tell the senior citizens at the Aging Center about the non-renewal issue and just approached the director to confirm it.

The director, he said, "was giving me the run around," saying that he was speculating. Additionally, Manglona said that Mondala yesterday handed him a printout of the poster in his Facebook account and told him, "That's the reason why the administration hates you."

But Manglona emphasized that what he posts on his Facebook account is done during his time outside work, and that he does not influence the *man'amko* at the center to support the candidates that he likes.

Manglona also cited an instance at the office wherein he was asked to remove the Kilili sticker on his private car, yet other cars, including government vehicles bearing pro-Fitial stickers, were not asked to do the same thing.

"I would not be intimidated by these people," said Manglona. "All I ask is for them to keep politics off of our work. I want everybody on this island not to be afraid to stand up for their right to express their opinion."

Mondala denied Manglona's non-renewal in an interview yesterday, saying that she signed Manglona's limited term appointment or LTA, an arrangement that applies to all Office on Aging staff whose salaries are paid for by federal funds.

"I signed the LTA but I'm not the ultimate person who has the authority on it," said Mondala. She said that besides the director, other key signatories in an LTA are the DCCA secretary, Faisao, and the governor.

As of press time, Faisao did not respond to an email inquiry.

YOUTHS

From Page 2

youths are aware of many issues on the island. Their knowledge about their surroundings, she said, are mostly acquired through reading and watching current events. Ada believes the summit gives youths the opportunity not only to voice but to act on problems by making policy recommendations.

Among the issues that Ada wants the youths to pay attention to is the preservation of the island culture, including

Christmas CD project

Individuals involved at the Aging Center said that yesterday's unfortunate situation actually started because of the Christmas CD album of the *man'amko*, which is part of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council's efforts to raise additional funds to improve the various programs for the congregates at the center.

Manglona, who has worked at the center for over a decade, said he volunteered his skills, recording equipment, and studio to the council, allowing them to come up with the album that will be sold for \$15 each.

He said he asked Mondala if he could take a three- to four-day leave so he can have the time to work on the album, which was targeted to be sent to the Philippines next week for mass reproduction in time for the holidays.

According to Manglona, Mondala refused to approve the leave and even attacked his efforts on this project, saying that she did not instruct him to do it and that it's not in the state plan.

Manglona underscored that the Christmas CD sprung from a collective decision of the *man'amko* to capture and document their talents and programs at the center so that when they pass away, the families that they leave behind would have something to remember them by.

"But she told me to cancel the project," said Manglona, prompting him to meet with council officers, inform them about this development, and hand them back the \$2,500 budget for the mass reproduction of the CD. "I won't do anything without the director's approval."

He noted, though, that he has taken leaves in the past, some as long as one month, so he can have more time to work on programs for the congregates at the center. "This is obviously political retaliation. Why else would they not allow it?"

Maria Salinas, council president, said that when the *man'amko* found out that the Christmas album will not push through, they got upset and several of them were yelling and screaming as they trooped to Mondala's office to oppose the decision.

"I was caught off-guard. It was really overwhelming then," she said, adding that she plans to talk to all involved to find out what really happened that led to yesterday's situation.

Mondala, when asked for comment, said that she supported the Christmas album wholeheartedly and that it was Manglona who used the project as a "bargaining tool" by telling the *man'amko* that he will not work on the album because he was told that he will not be renewed.

She explained that using her judgment, she can allow Manglona to take a leave for hours in a day, but not for several consecutive days.

preservation of land. Ada said that students must be made aware of the issue of Article 12 because it involves the future of the CNMI.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, said the summit will help students make decisions when they are ready. She hopes that, among all the issues presented, students will agree on the importance of education as it drives the economy.

Yesterday's summit was held at Saipan World Resort in Susupe. An agenda of recommendations from the students is expected at the end of the three-day summit.

Guilty verdict for Grandpa Ping

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury rendered yesterday a guilty verdict on 62-year-old Jose Ilo Santos for molesting a then 8-year-old girl last year.

After deliberating for less than three hours, the six jurors unanimously found Santos guilty of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Santos, also known as Grandpa Ping, remained calm when a court staff read the verdict at 2:45pm.

The victim was tightly embraced by her mother outside the courtroom shortly after the hearing.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set Santos' sentencing for Jan. 16, 2013, and remanded

the defendant to the Department of Corrections.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown in an interview said the maximum penalty for each count is 30 years in prison, for a total of 60 years for both counts.

"Obviously we're very pleased with the outcome of the case. We realized the sensitive nature of this case. We're grateful to the jury," Brown said.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister assisted Brown during the trial that began on Monday. Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Santos, refused to comment.

In his closing arguments yes-

terday morning, Brown said the doctors' examination on the girl indicated both vaginal and anal penetration.

"When all evidence are put together, it's not only consistent, it's conclusive," Brown pointed out.

Brown said the girl stated that Santos touched her private parts using his finger.

No DNA samples taken and tested because the girl was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center on May 16, 2011, nine days after Santos did the horrifying things to the child, Brown said.

Hartig said the girl testified that she was touched by the defendant with her clothes on.

Hartig said the charges in



Santos

Tickets on sale for 'Dance for Dora' Zumbathon fundraiser

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the "Dance for Dora" Zumbathon charity event began selling tickets on Tuesday.

Dance for Dora is supported by the CNMI Public School System and will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Entrance fee is \$5 per person and participants are asked to come in exercise clothes and athletic shoes, and to bring a sweat towel and water bottle.

The event is one of the many fundraisers that will be held to raise the \$25,000 needed to transfer Dora Grace Ada Camacho to a facility in South Carolina where she can receive the medical treatment she needs. The 8-year-old girl is paralyzed from the neck down and has been in the intensive care unit at the hospital for the past five months.

Amy Sletten, Dora's former teacher at the William S. Reyes Elementary School who is also a licensed Zumba Fitness instructor, is spearheading the fundraiser with two other instructors, Elitza "Elly" Stoilova and Jo-Ann Aquino.

Stoilova said Saturday's event will be 1.5 hours of "fun,

dance, and fitness," although participants are not required to stay throughout the event.

"People can join us for a little, take a break, and if for any reason they cannot follow the instructors on the stage, they can just dance to the music the way they feel it. Have fun, burn some calories, and help Dora! It is a party," she said.

Stoilova disclosed that they earlier planned to sell the tickets at the door, without any plans of pre-selling them.

"But due to the demand, we had to start selling tickets this Tuesday," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tickets are available for sale from any of the three organizers and at Gold's Gym.

The event will also feature a raffle draw. For only \$1 per raffle ticket, the public will have a chance to win any of the great prizes donated by local businesses that have agreed to support the cause.

Up for grabs are lunch and spa certificates from Mariana Resort & Spa, waterpark passes or Magellan brunch at Pacific Islands Club, dinner cruise with Stars & Stripes, DFS Galleria giveaways, donations from Joeten Enterprises and Gold's Gym, \$25 gift certificates at Joeten Store from Saipan Stevedore,

wine, Spam items from D&Q, and the grand prize of hotel accommodation at Kanoa Resort and Century Hotel donated by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Proceeds from entrance and raffle tickets will fund Dora's medical transport.

Sletten expressed hope that many community members will support Dora and take part in Saturday's fundraiser.

"This 8-year-old brave girl deserves the chance to run, jump, and play with other kids, enjoy life, grow as a beautiful young woman, have a family of her own. This chance is \$25,000 away from her and I believe in our community, we can do it, we can give her this chance! If someone cannot stay for the Zumba Fitness party, at least stop by and get a ticket... Every \$5 counts to reach the goal," she said.

Tourist dive boat burglarized

Even boats are not safe from burglars nowadays.

A tourist dive boat parked at Smiling Cove Marina was burglarized over the weekend and \$4,500 worth of dive equipment were stolen.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the boat's captain discovered the break-in when he was preparing to launch the vessel on Saturday at 11:40am.

Tarkong said the burglar or burglars stole two BC dive jackets, two regulators, two mouthpieces, four octopus dive hoses, one orange flare gun with six flares, and a first aid kit. The

items are of Korean brand.

Tarkong said the suspect or suspects managed to enter the boat by breaking the padlock on the door.

Investigators believe that the burglary happened at nighttime as the items were last seen the day before when they were secured after working hours.

"The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous," said Tarkong, who is also coordinator for the Crime Stoppers. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

the case involved sexual penetration.

Hartig said the doctor, who examined the girl and served as the prosecution's expert witness, admitted that he examined three sexual assault victims in the past.

"Three times, that's his experience?" the defense counsel asked.

Hartig said the doctor concluded that their examination showed it was consistent with sexual penetration.

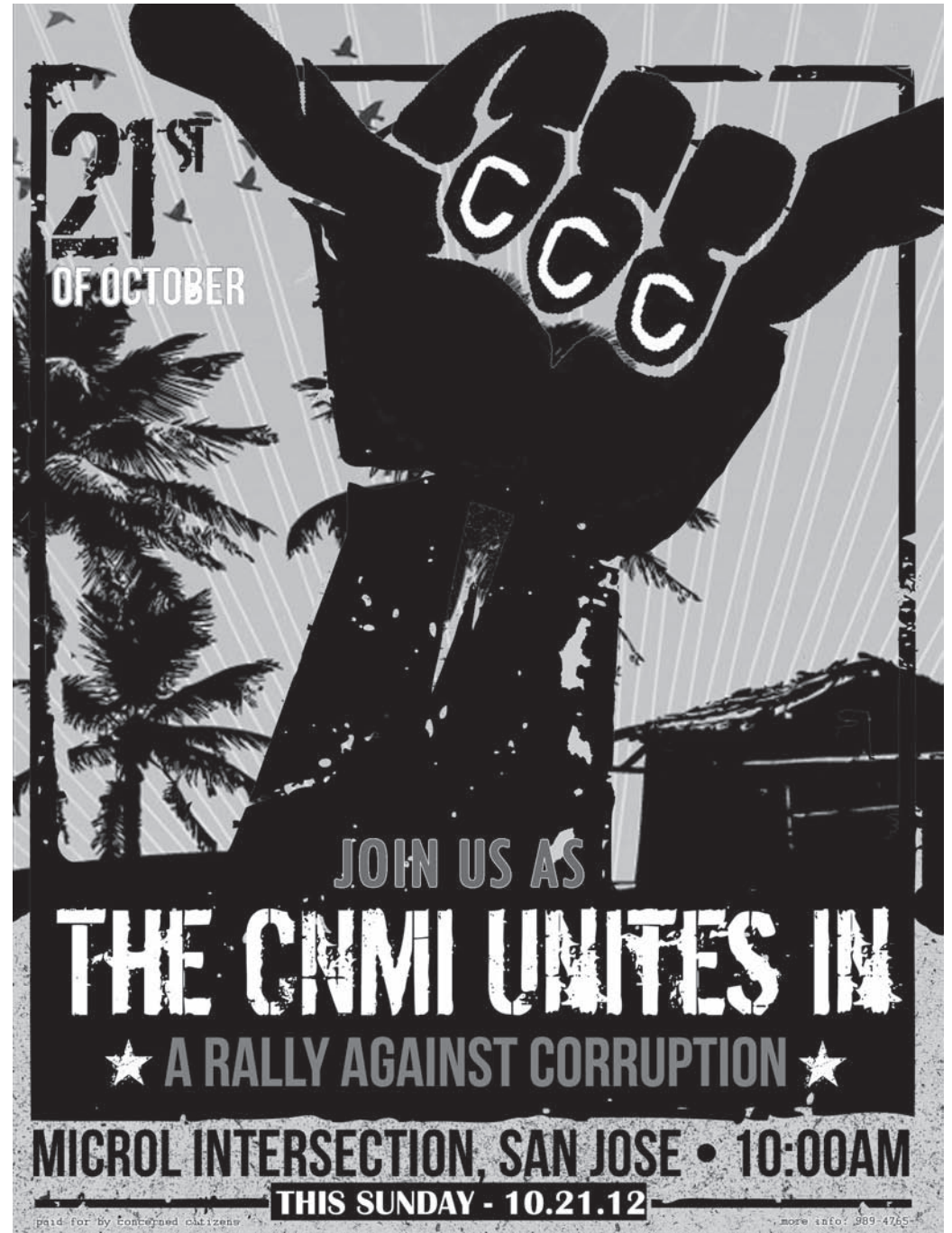
"We're not here for consistency. We're here for certainty, conclusive," he added.

Hartig questioned why there was no DNA samples taken and no DNA testing conducted. "We're here not for may,

but proof beyond reasonable doubt," he said.

The victim took the witness stand on Tuesday afternoon.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Santos with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree for molesting the girl on April 23, 2011, and May 7, 2011, at his house in Tanapag.



Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

This election, it is important that we continue the tradition of sending a wise woman to the Senate. Wisdom, Integrity, Stewardship and Excellence are the hallmarks of Ana Sablan Teregeyo's record of public service.

On November 6th, vote WISELY,
vote Ana Sablan Teregeyo
for **SENATE 2012.**

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MAY NOMINATE STUDENTS FOR THE AIR FORCE,
NAVAL, AND MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMIES, AND
THE MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

United States citizens
High school graduates
Ages 17 to 23
Unmarried, with no dependents



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE:

A strong academic background
The ability to pass a physical
aptitude test
Sound moral character

More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 14, 2012.

Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Full-time physician hired for Tinian Health Center

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just a week after naming a new resident director for the Tinian Health Center, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta announced yesterday the hiring of a new permanent physician for the center.

The Tinian Health Center has been operating without a full-time doctor since Dr. Steven Lebamoff's resignation last year.

Babauta disclosed during yesterday's special board meeting that Dr. Frank Pair was recruited through an agency and has been hired by the corporation under an independent contract effective this week. He did not disclose the contract amount but described the doctor's employment as "perfectly legal" and was coursed through the Office of the Attorney General.

THC has been criticized for

not having a permanent doctor for many years. The issue has been at the center of recent arguments between Babauta and Tinian board member Anthony Aguon, who earlier labeled as "irresponsible" some of the CEO's decisions, including the failed hiring of a full-time doctor for Tinian.

Babauta admitted yesterday that the contract of the physician that was hired before Pair was "invalid" following a determination by the OAG that the contract was not properly executed. That doctor left just days after arriving to supposedly start work.

Prior to Pair, Dr. Priyawan Wijay was the center's full-time doctor under a special contract that required him to work only from Friday to Tuesday each week.

Babauta said they recently approached Wijay and asked him to serve full time, an offer

that Wijay rejected. He agreed, however, to work part-time.

Babauta said that Wijay will be retained to help reduce the coverage of the new physician.

He said he talks everyday with THC resident director William Cing to monitor how the new physician is adjusting. He was informed that Pair is "adjusting well" on Tinian.

Cing told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Pair was hired from Alabama. He met the new physician only on Friday.

According to Cing, THC has about 30 personnel including himself and the new physician. Other employees are nine nurses, a laboratory technician, an x-ray technician, two pharmacists, two staff for environmental health, one staff for the medical supply office, two for housekeeping, two trade maintenance workers, and three at its accounting unit.

Cing said it is the center's priority to maintain the level of emergency care it provides to the public. THC provides both inpatient and emergency care.



GOOD JOB!

Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, right, and teacher Liz Espiritu, left, join the contestants and winners in the recent National Junior Forensic League competition held at Chacha OceanView Junior High School in Kagman. From left to right are Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, Kris Angelo Talens, Joseph Francis Yanto, and En Ming Cacadac.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Social Security, SSI benefits to rise in January

Seniors on Social Security and recipients of Supplemental Security Income will be receiving a 1.7 percent cost of living increase for 2013, said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday. SSI recipients will see the additional money beginning Dec. 31, 2012, and Social Security retirees in January 2013. The annual increase will average about \$120 per beneficiary.

"Social Security retirement benefits and Supplemental Security Income payments provide an important lifeline to over 3,600 people in the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan explained. "And the \$25,000,000 that Social Security and SSI pump into our local economy keeps people working and businesses in operation. So this cost of living increase is certainly welcome."

The Northern Mariana Islands is the only U.S. territory where residents are eligible for Supplemental Security Income. The benefit was negotiated as part of the Commonwealth's Covenant with the United States. A total of 2,586 persons in the CNMI qualified for SSI in 2011, including blind or disabled adults and children, who have limited income and resources, and those 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.

A total of 1,022 Northern Marianas residents were Social Security recipients in 2011. This number include retirees, who have contributed earnings for 40 quarters, as well as disabled workers, and the widows, parents, spouses, and children of deceased Social Security beneficiaries.

Last year was the first year since 2009 that there had been a cost of living increase for Social Security and SSI. However, in 2009 Congress did provide a special payment of \$250 in place of the COLA in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. A total of 2,570 Social Security recipients and disabled veterans in the Northern Marianas received the \$250, adding \$642,420 to the local economy.

Sablan voted for the Recovery Act and also was an original co-sponsor of the Seniors Protection Act in 2010, which would have provided another \$250 COLA increase for veterans receiving disability compensation and for Social Security beneficiaries. The bill was voted down by Republicans, however.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. More information about the calculation is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/cola. (PR)

Boating Safety rescues stranded surfer

DPS Boating Safety Officers Mike Camacho and Stanley Patris responded to a stranded surfer floating in the waters off the Sugar Dock Channel on Monday, Oct. 15, at about 1:13 pm.

The victim, 25-year-old Arvin Avila, was surfing when he had cramps. He was swept out to sea by the current. The waves were dangerously large and the current too strong for him to paddle back to safety.

He floated in the water for over an hour, waiting for help.

Camacho and Patris borrowed the jet skis of Island Marine Sports behind Saipan World Resort and made contact with the victim around 1:30pm, bringing him back to shore.

Acting commissioner Aniceto T. Ogumoro is reminding the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches during high hazardous surf conditions. (PR)

Rotary's *man'amko* luncheon set for Nov. 20

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan will host its annual *man'amko* luncheon on Nov. 20 as an early Thanksgiving treat for the island's elderly.

Members of the organization will gather at the Aging Center in Garapan instead of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, the venue for their luncheon meetings every Tuesday.

The Rotarians themselves are usually the ones who dish out the traditional Thanksgiving fare like turkey, ham, and red rice but not this year, according

to acting president Laila Boyer.

"We're not focusing on the food. It will be catered, everything will be provided. We're going to be focusing on the activities with the *man'amko*," she said during Tuesday's meeting.

Community Services director Curtis Dancoe, for his part, said that having the luncheon catered would give the Rotarians the opportunity to interact with the congregates at the Aging Center.

Dancoe said this year's Thanksgiving celebration will provide a "carnival atmosphere" for the *man'amko*.

"I'm looking forward to all the Rotarians teaming up in groups of three and coming up with a carnival-like game that you can play on the table with the *man'amko*," he said.

Dancoe said the Rotarians will encourage the *man'amko* to take part in the table games since participation would give them a raffle ticket for a chance to win any of the exciting prizes that will be given away.

"If they win, they'll get two tickets. So the more you participate, the more tickets you get out of it," he explained.

Dancoe said there will also be prizes and incentives for the

Rotarian with the best decorated table or booth.

The Thanksgiving event will also be highlighted by a bingo game to be led by Rotarian Ben Babauta following the luncheon. The raffle draw would culminate the celebration.

Dancoe encouraged all Rotarians to donate giveaways that the *man'amko* can use.

Established in 1968, Rotary Club of Saipan is one of the over 34,200 service clubs dedicated to upholding the principles established by Rotary International, including providing humanitarian services, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and building goodwill and peace in the world.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Wednesday, August 15, 2012 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - ii. Friday, August 24, 2012 – Special Board Meeting Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - a. CDA-NMHC Tinian Office
 - b. Garapan Properties for Auction
 - c. 2012 LIHTC Application
 - d. PHD Program Updates
 - e. RD Payment Plan
 - f. Girl Scouts of the Northern Mariana Islands' Housing Unit Request
 - g. Tinian Subdivision Complaints
- IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**
 - a. Rota Field Office
 - b. Tinian Field Office
- V. FISCAL AFFAIRS**
 - a. Status of FY2011 Audit
 - b. FY2012 Financial Status
 - c. Proposed Amendments to FY2013 Budget
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes – August 22, 2012
- 2) Public Comments**
- 3) Committee Reports**
 1. Finance
 - a. FY 2013 Expenditure Plan
 2. Personnel
- 4) Old Business**
- 5) New Business**
 1. Email Poll Ratifications:
 - a. Upcoming Sports Events
 2. FY 2013 Expenditure Plan
 3. Office Space
- 6) Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) Executive Session**
- 8) Adjournment**

/s/ **Marian Aldan-Pierce**
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eddie Calvo and Guam National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino pose for a group photo during their visit with the 12-man Security Force Assistance/Advisory Team from GUARNG that was mobilized to deploy as part of the 29th Brigade Combat Team of the HIARNG to Afghanistan. Photo below shows Calvo administering the oath during the promotion of Lt. Col. Franklin Babauta.

Saipan's Frank Babauta receives promotion

» SFAT gets visit from Guam governor at training site

FORT IRWIN, Calif.—A visit from Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo turned into a promotion ceremony for one of the soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard's Security Force Assistance/Advisor Team currently training at the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, Calif.

Lt. Col. Franklin Babauta received his new oak leaf rank from Calvo after the governor administered the oath of office for the newly promoted officer. Babauta is one of 13 soldiers in the SFAT. The team from Guam is one of 16 teams under the 29th Brigade Combat Team that will deploy to Afghanistan in a few weeks.

The brigade is tasked with enabling the Afghan National Security Forces to improve operational capabilities.

Babauta was born and raised on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. He graduated from Marianas



High School in 1986, then moved to Guam to attend the University of Guam, where he majored in Criminal Justice.

Babauta was a cadet in the UOG Reserve Officers Training Corps when he joined the Guam Guard in 1989. Upon his commissioning in 1991, he joined the Army Reserve, where he was assigned as the Platoon Leader for Echo Company, 100th Battalion-442nd Infantry. He became the Company Commander in 1999 to 2001.

He participated in several military training exercises to

include a peacekeeping mission in Malaysia and the Pacific Reserve Exchange Training program in Australia. In 2003, he was again selected to take command of Echo Company, 100th Battalion-442nd Infantry where he received his call up for deployment to Iraq in 2004.

He commanded Echo Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom in the central Iraqi district of Balad. After completing his tour in 2006, he rejoined the Guam Army National Guard in 2007. From 2007 to 2009, he deployed to Afghanistan with the Embed-

ded Training Team in the Regional Command East area. He was assigned to work with the Afghan Border Police, 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 203rd Corp.

After his deployment, Babauta was assigned as the commander of the GUARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters, GUARNG before his new assignment.

Babauta is currently assigned as the Executive Officer and Operations Officer of the Guam SFAT, Forward G-26.

He said he has siblings and other family members still living on Saipan. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 18, 1999

Teno, Lang meet over \$12M lawsuit

Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's appeal for assistance in connection with a court ruling on a taxpayers' lawsuit that ordered him to pay \$12.4 million was denied by the current administration following his meeting last Friday with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The former governor objected to the interpretation of the Attorney General's Office of an existing law on public employee legal defense and indemnification, saying it was wrong. "According to them, and I don't agree with them, that because of this act, the government cannot pay for my defense anymore so they are using this to deny me for paying those things," he said in an interview over the weekend.

PCB contamination spreads to Lower Base

A recent study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers revealed that the contamination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) has spread to the Lower Base area close to the cemetery. Due to these findings, the Division of Environmental Quality and representatives from the various federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry as well as the U.S. Army Corps will discuss the issue of toxicology and human health risks of PCBs. "We will wait for the federal government's answers because even the clean up will depend on the results of the public meeting," said DEQ Director Ike Cabrera.

Oct. 18, 2000

Supreme Court chides OAG

The Supreme Court yesterday warned the Office of the Attorney General that it will impose appropriate sanctions if the AGO continues to represent private parties without first asking permission from the high tribunal. In a decision handed down by Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Justice Pro Tem Timothy H. Bellas, the high court chided the AGO when it acted as counsel to private parties in its interest to clarify the interpretation of a statute. The high court's decision stemmed from an appeal filed by the Pacific Saipan Technical Contractors on an administrative order issued by Labor Secretary Mark Zachares ordering the company to pay wages to nonresident workers Ataur Rahman and Abdul Wahad.

Education tax credit gets boost from private schools

A proposed legislation seeking to grant tuition tax credit to elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth has drawn support from private schools, citing its advantages to both educational institutions and parents in the Northern Marianas. Authored by Rep. William S. Torres, the Education Tuition Tax Credit proposal was envisioned to provide "qualified" schools incentives for their contributions to uplift the quality of education in the Commonwealth. During a public hearing held at the House chamber yesterday, private school officials recognized the proposed legislation's merits, noting that it would enable CNMI parents to place their children on a school they think would best provide the students' educational needs.

Oct. 18, 2001

Verizon urged to confer with telecom panel

Despite reports that Verizon Pacifica will soon be pulling up stakes from the CNMI, Senate President Paul A. Manglona still insists that the telecommunications giant should still sit down with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission to iron out any perceived kinks in Public Law 12-39. "We're saying that they [Verizon] should sit down with Commission. They should work with Commission in going over Public Law 12-39-provision by provision, section by section-because we're not going to repeal this thing," said Manglona. The Senate President promised that the Senate will support whatever Verizon and the Commission agree on.

Fitial hosts NMI students at UOG

House Speaker and Covenant Party gubernatorial candidate Benigno R. Fitial last week hosted a luncheon on Guam in honor of CNMI students who are studying at the University of Guam. The luncheon, which was held at the Ladera Towers near the UOG campus, was attended by some 35 students who participated in a candid discussion of Commonwealth issues with the Speaker. The students were impressed with Fitial's knowledge of the pressing issues and his plans for the youth of the NMI. The UOG group took an active part in the question and answer session wherein they raised questions and concerns about education, scholarships and the future of the Commonwealth.



CONGRATULATIONS!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2012 San Francisco de Borja Fiesta Poster Contest winners, from left, Angelica Lucero (first place), Tyra Reese Calvo (second place), and Jonelle Toskas (third place).

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Happy birthday to our little superstar, Elijah-Jayvon! I hope your birthday is filled with hugs, kisses, games, and most importantly, a lot of cake! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Joe, and Koby.



Belated happy 23rd birthday to the world's greatest dad, Byron Cruz, who celebrated his birthday on Oct. 17! We hope you had an awesome one and we wish many more birthdays to come. With lots of love, Kayven, Aly, and the rest of the family.

USCIS to host free Chinese session on petitioning immediate relative

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will host a free information session of its “Jiao Liu” series on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012 at 11am (Pacific Time.) The topic will be “Petitioning for an Immediate Relative.” This national session will be exclusively in Chinese and available for the public to

participate via Internet or toll-free telephone.

The “Jiao Liu” engagements provide agency updates, help customers understand how to petition for an immediate relative, and includes live question-and-answer sessions with USCIS officials fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese. Participants may participate

via telephone at 1-888-989-4980 (Passcode: Jiao liú) or live Web stream at www.uscis.gov/jiaoliu.

This initiative underscores USCIS’ commitment to effectively engage with the diverse communities which it serves and to provide timely information about USCIS immigration benefits and services. For more information, please visit www.uscis.gov/jiaoliu or view the event flyers, available in English and Chinese. For more information about our multilingual resources, please visit www.uscis.gov/multilingual.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit www.uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog *The Beacon*. (USCIS)

Sablan welcomes students to Close Up Youth Summit

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) welcomed yesterday high school students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to the 2nd Annual Close Up Youth Summit at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe. The summit, organized by the Close Up Foundation, aims to engage students in thinking about the most vexing public policy problems facing the Commonwealth. An agenda of recommendations from the students is expected at the end of the three-day summit.

Sablan is a leading advocate for funding for the Close Up program, which brings students from the Northern Marianas and other U.S. insular areas to Washington, D.C. to study how the federal government works each year. Congress legislates the money needed for Close Up programs in the Northern Marianas through the annual appropriation for the Interior Department.

Increased funding in recent years has allowed Close Up to add the on-island summit program. The summit gives more students an opportunity to participate in Close Up and prepares those students who travel with the program to the nation’s capital for their learning experience there.

In his remarks, Sablan focused on the importance of having student representatives from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan all working together at the summit. “Unless all our islands are contributing,” the delegate said, “your proposals will be incomplete. With input from a broad range of viewpoints you are going to have a much stronger set of recommendations at the end of the summit.”

The delegate also talked about his efforts to make sure

that students and schools have the financial resources they need.

“You have all heard: ‘Students are our future,’” Sablan said. “Sounds great. But unless you back that up with some money and some programs to help schools, you’re just blowing smoke.



Sablan

“So I became one of the 22 original sponsors of a bill called the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which became law in 2010.

“We increased the number of students eligible for the Pell Grant, which is a college scholarship from the federal government. We also increased the dollar amount of each Pell grant. And we lowered the cost of college loans.” The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives as part of the Obama health care reform law. No Republicans voted for it.

Pell grants have been going up ever since. Northern Marianas students got \$2.9 million in 2010. This year NMI students received \$3.6 million in Pell grants and that total will continue to rise.

In addition to the tuition that Pell grants pay, the Northern Marianas College also benefited from the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act directly. The college is receiving \$7.5 million in College Access Challenge grants over a 10-year period to use to help NMC students succeed at the college level.

Sablan told the students that he looks forward to seeing the results of their work, the Agenda for Policy Action, which students will present on Friday, Oct. 19, the final day of the Close Up Summit. (PR)

EMO warns of high surf

The Emergency Management Office issued yesterday a high surf advisory, warning the public to avoid venturing near exposed beaches and reefs due to dangerous rip currents.

The EMO advisory states that moderate to occasionally fresh trade winds and combined seas of 7 to 8 feet are expected through Saturday.

The high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm today.

“Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet is expected along west and north facing reefs tonight and Thursday. Surf should fall to below hazardous levels by Thursday evening,” the advisory states.

The public is advised to avoid exposed reefs and beaches, especially north and west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (EMO)



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Security officers Abdul Momen, second from left, and Rogelio Santos, third from left, are selected as G4S Secure Solution (CNMI) Inc.’s Employee of the Month. Both officers are assigned at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. They are presented here with their certificates of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan, leftmost, and acting Safety and Security manager Farid Islam.

PLEASE VOTE!
DR. IGNACIA TUDELA DEMAPAN
FOR
U.S. DELEGATE
CNMI FIRST

*A Delegate Of, For & By
The People*

Hafa Adai, Buenas yan Saludu, Tirow people of the CNMI:

As your Republican Candidate for the U.S. Delegate office, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence this coming election.

For twenty-three years. I have had the privilege to serve in various schools and teach children the value of education. As your representative, allow me to continue that work at a higher level.

The CNMI is facing turbulent times. Our people are unhappy. The cost of power and water is crippling our economy. Many businesses have closed shop. Residents, unable to find good paying jobs at home, have fled elsewhere in search of greener pastures while those left behind, must live in a climate of uncertainty where highly skilled jobs offer low wage opportunities with no relief from the rising costs of living. Families, unable to make ends meet, have joined the jobless on the welfare line and many have returned to subsistence farming and fishing for survival. In these hard times, the elderly, the disabled, and the poor are the first to suffer and with Medicaid being cut, the CNMI's problems are only deepening.

Our Covenant states that the U.S. government “shall assist the CNMI Government in its effort to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people.” As part of the Covenant, the CNMI sacrificed over two-thirds of Tinian property in the name of national defense. We have lived up to our end and Washington needs to live up to theirs. As delegate, I will be your voice in Washington, to air your concerns and safeguard your interests.

If elected, I will work very closely with the U.S. Congress to address our economic, social, educational, utility infrastructure, and healthcare needs. I will work against pending immigration issues that will negatively affect our indigenous population. I will work to provide continued funding for our present Commonwealth-wide fishing and agricultural industries. I will work to request assistance from our U.S. Congress to help our tourism industry. I will work to tap all possible forms of grants and assistance available to the CNMI from the Federal Government. I will work to continue to help and assist our “Manamko”, our children with special needs, our youth, our women, our students and families abroad, our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian communities, our military veterans and soldiers, and our Commonwealth.

Our people deserve a brighter future. The road will not be easy but I believe that with ACTION, PERSEVERANCE, KNOWLEDGE and FOCUS, we can achieve this goal.

Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ghilisow, Thank you!

Ignacia I. Demapan
Dr. Ignacia Tudela Demapan

**Paid for by: Committee-to-Elect,
Treasurer David S. Demapan**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Benghazi as a political football

It was probably too much to expect that Republicans would ignore the political possibilities in the deadly attack on a U.S. consulate in Libya and the Obama administration's evolving explanations of what exactly occurred. But, predictable or not, their indictment is so overbroad as to be self-defeating.

Not only is the administration accused of disregarding warnings about the security situation in Benghazi (with the implication that the attack could have been avoided), but Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., suggested over the weekend that Susan Rice, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, knowingly misled the nation about the nature of the attack. And both Graham and vice-presidential nominee Paul Ryan have said that the incident was proof of the "unraveling" of President Obama's foreign policy.

The Sept. 11 attack on the consulate in Benghazi, in which U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed, was a tragedy. Was it also preventable? At a congressional hearing last week, Eric Nordstrom, the State Department's former regional security officer in Libya, criticized his superiors for ignoring his concerns about the growing risk of armed militias and extremist groups in Benghazi. But he also acknowledged that posting a few more Americans at the site would not have been sufficient to repel the onslaught by heavily armed extremists.

As with 9/11 and other acts of terrorism, 20/20 hindsight makes it easy for critics to argue that this attack might have been avoided. But even if further investigation suggests that the State Department should have foreseen problems and increased security, the suggestion that the attack is emblematic of an "unraveling" of Obama's policy in the Middle East is excessive.

Then there is the charge that the administration prevaricated when it said that the attack in Benghazi was the outgrowth of a spontaneous protest over the "Innocence of Muslims" video that provoked protests throughout the Muslim world rather than what it actually was—a premeditated terrorist operation. It's true that it wasn't until Oct. 9 that senior State Department officials admitted that there was never any protest in Benghazi.

Clearly it took too long for that to be made clear. But on Sunday, Sen. Graham offered a more sinister explanation: Rice and other administration officials knew the truth early on, he said, but dissembled in order "to sell a narrative, quite frankly, that (in) the Mideast the wars are receding and al-Qaida has been dismantled." That's an absurd charge, as Graham seemed to recognize when he later softened it by saying "either they're misleading the American people or incredibly incompetent."

The Obama administration also has engaged in some political spin. In his debate with Ryan, Vice President Joe Biden said that "we weren't told" of requests for greater security in Benghazi. That may have been accurate as a reference to the White House, but it was disingenuous in light of the testimony about warnings made to the State Department. Still, in the politicization of Benghazi, the administration finishes a poor second to the Republicans, who are determined to shore up their own election year narrative.

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The Climate Change

Severe winter day in September, I called it. A freak occurrence, said others. No, we did not have snow on the ground. But close. September in the temperate zone is the end of summer and just the start of autumn. But the official website of the Aerospace University jests that there is no autumn in Liaoning. Summer goes directly to winter. So it was with the blast of cold winds one day in September.

Dong Bei China boasts of four seasons: two weeks of spring, two months of summer, two days of autumn, and the rest is winter. The numbers, of course, do not compute, but that is hardly the point of the boast.

The two-layer-shirt day of September winter did not come as a surprise to many. It just meant adding layers of clothing to protect the body from the elements. But it wobbled our knees, and at our age, that is just like trying to walk straight while the earth shimmied under our feet.

Weather-wise, the October National Holiday week was glorious. Two of my students trekked up to Changbaishan, that crystal clear Crater Lake 8,000 feet above sea level on the border of China and North Korea, and they made it to the top. Their sole complaint was that there were too many people who made the journey. Last year, when I attempted the feat, we did not even make it to the foothills as it snowed up to our ankles down close to the river.

But it was the two-layer-pant day here in the plains that got our knees beyond shivering this sudden winter October that followed. Happily, we already winterized our closet so the long johns are accessible. I thought that two years of severe winters in the prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada, and exposure to the icy river of Dillingham, Alaska would have inured us to the sharp whiskers of old man winter, but no such luck. Our knees complain along with our freezing butt.

Steam in the radiator, for the university and the rest of the city, will not be turned on until Nov. 1, our convenient excuse, against our MD's advice, was to stock up on a few bottles of single malt whiskey!

My discomfort on climate change here in China's northeast is understandable since we are basically hot-blooded *honcho tropico*, but when the locals find the conditions severe as well, then the change might be more radical than just the normal descent of the mercury down the thermometer tube.

We are not really given to complaining. We take the global climate change simply as an occasion for the human of the specie to adapt to a changed situation. Forecasted catastrophes produce adrenaline-rush in doomsday movies but like the boutique drugs of the contemporary scene, the descent from the artifice is often too costly to bear. With the grasslands of Inner Mongolia dotted with coal-burning plants to generate electricity for China's industries, and the barreling coal trucks 24/7 from Shanxi feeding the mon-

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



sters, we are not about to see a clearing of the skies from carbon anytime soon.

A town in Alaska encourages folks to forego showers this autumn and winter, as public works was unable to get all the water it requires to meet the whole town's requirement. Ironically, with the polar cap melting more and faster as a consequence of global warming, the atmospheric temperature near poles gets cooler earlier than a town's normal schedule to pump water into its reservoir. Fresh water is already frozen. It will not thaw again until spring, and that is a long way off past April.

On the other hand, Thailand is bracing for the onslaught of more monsoon rains, a bit more prepared this time than it was last year when flooding cost them an economy and a half. Still, it is getting more water than what it normally can handle.

Settlements in the U.S. southwest are finding their ponds and lakes drying up, a boon to archaeologists who are discovering interesting items on the newly exposed terrain, but the parched land does nothing for the agricultural requirements of flora and fauna.

These floods and droughts are wreaking mayhem on many settlements around the world but it is also surprising many farmers as they either get water and sunshine more or less than what they normally get. The table grape growers in Liaoning this mid-autumn festival offered sweet and juicy fruit of the vine they were expected to provide, much also to the delight of the vintners.

Heat, even when the radiators steam, do not really get a drop of sweat even from the super active, so we rely on the double-layer shirts draped by all kinds of cardigans, cashmeres, angoras, mohairs, flannels, wools—nah, these garments for export aren't affordable around here. Down jackets and nylon apparels left over from last year's inventory from overproduction are more in our price range!

Occasionally, we daydream of those year-round sunsets along Saipan's lagoon that we relished even as we occasionally got drenched in the afternoon showers. A Riben tourist once commented: "Gee, I work all year to afford coming over for a couple of weeks, and here you get to sit under the coconut basking on lagoon breeze all year round!" Ah, but we should all be so lucky.

Pass the Glenfiddich, please! Now, where did I place that darn scarf? Kiss my freezin' Alz!

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Debates vital as truth vanishes from politics

By STEVEN MICHELS
THE HARTFORD COURANT

The presidential debates usually are tightly scripted and well-rehearsed joint press conferences. But because they're one of the few places where our next president can speak to the country at length and unfiltered by the media, the debates matter now more than ever.

Democracy requires a dialogue about its fundamental principles. But instead of a contest of political assertions relating to policy goals, our politics has become more about affirming a particular worldview and social consciousness. What we're seeing might be the first postmodern election.

The essential feature of modernism is the pursuit of objective and empirical truth. From a postmodern perspective, truth as a goal is as impossible as it is silly.

Reality has been on life support for years—dating back to 1997, when Bill Clinton urged us to contemplate the meaning of “is.” But what was once the egregious exception has become the norm. Truth has taken a serious hit this campaign season.

“We’re not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact checkers,” said Neil Newhouse, a pollster for the Romney campaign. Newhouse was soundly criticized, but his was a classic Kinsley-style gaffe-truth.

It used to be that competing narratives were spun from a commonly accepted set of facts. The goal was to put those facts in the best possible light. Facts were politicized, but agreement on policy

was still possible.

The new narratives begin with a moral stance, which facts are then spun into or out of it. If the goal before was winning elections and forming public policy, the new goal is more demanding but actually easier to achieve: righteousness. Disagreement is essential to preserve the integrity of the narrative, which means that compromise is not only impossible but contemptible.

The conservative narrative includes self-reliance, American exceptionalism, and Judeo-Christian values. The liberal narrative is based on equality and the inherent goodness of human nature and government. The rhetoric of freedom is perhaps the most contested territory: conservatives want freedom to mean economic freedom, while liberals are more concerned with political freedom.

As much as they are firm, each side is also flawed. In their pure forms, the conservative position is as specific and skeptical as the liberal position is vague and naïve. Liberals put their faith in themselves and each other, while conservatives use religion and God.

Conservatives chide the left for its reliance on “identity” politics, by which they mean race, class, gender and sexual orientation. But the right too has its identities: American, Christian, entrepreneur. Conservatives emphasize sameness and make a virtue of exclusion; liberals emphasize difference and make a virtue of inclusion.

Both narratives also misuse history—conservatives for its supposed goodness and justice, liberals for its relative badness and injustice.

The narratives have grown impenetrable not in spite of our media, but because of it. The number of media outlets and volume of

coverage means that every citizen can construct his or her own political narratives, safe inside bubbles of interpretation and meaning.

For their part, candidates feed into the frenzy—Obama stays away from Fox, Romney stays away from MSNBC. But the media is under no compulsion to create a safe space for softball questions. And, conversely, if voters are going to hear what they want to hear, then there's little to be lost from giving it to them.

In short, the quest for objectivity and truth has rendered them both inconsequential. A refusal to believe scientific consensus not because of its uncertainty, but because of its certainty. The Dark Ages were dark because of superstition and ignorance. But the New Dark Age is dark because we've fitted ourselves with blinders. It's Orwell's 1984—without the need for state tyranny.

These two perspectives are ideal types, but, short of a real crisis, it's hard to imagine a way out.

That's why the danger of money looms so large—whether it's corporate, union or private. Any common discourse would have to begin on level ground.

It's possible that new communities could be formed where issues are less abstract and problems require more immediate attention. But that would mean a fracturing of national political life.

The debates might be the last place where the narratives collide, which is exactly why we need more of them.

Steven Michels is an associate professor of political science at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and the author of The Case against Democracy. He wrote this for The Hartford Courant.

Actually, this kiss really was just a kiss

By CATHY YOUNG
NEWSDAY

There are probably few American images as famous as the photo of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square the day World War II ended with Japan's surrender on Aug. 14, 1945. Now, a feminist blog called Crates and Ribbons argues that the kiss wasn't just a kiss—it was sexual assault, and the failure to recognize that is an indictment of “the rape culture in which we live.”

The claim has caused a stir in the online media world and has been discussed on radio talk shows. But if there's an indictment here, it's of the state of modern feminism and its self-defeating penchant for tilting at windmills.

The London-based blogger, known only as “Leopard,” points out that the kiss, as revealed years later, was not particularly romantic or even particularly consensual. The sailor, identified as George Mendonsa, was on a date with another woman, and the “nurse” (who was actually a dental assistant), identified as Greta Friedman, was a total stranger on a break from work. Having just heard about the war's end, Mendonsa celebrated with a few drinks. Then he grabbed Friedman—in what she later described as “a vice grip”—and laid a

smooch on her.

What angers the blogger is that, while several media accounts of the iconic kiss on the recent V-J Day anniversary mentioned these circumstances, they did not seem to find them disturbing and still treated the kiss as reciprocal, with references to “the smooching couple” or to the moment “when a sailor and nurse locked lips.”

“Leopard” acknowledges that the photo has always been a symbol not of romance but of jubilation and relief at the end of the war in which the “kissing sailor” had risked his life. Still, she argues, this doesn't justify “his impinging on someone else's bodily autonomy.” If we're going to bring down the “rape culture” and defend women's right not to have their bodies used without their consent, the blogger argues, we should identify this moment for the “sexual assault” that it is, even if it makes us uncomfortable.

There are several problems here. The blogger thinks the standard narrative ignores women's feelings. Actually, several articles around the anniversary did discuss the potentially hurt feelings of Mendonsa's date and future wife, seen in the photo's background. More important, Friedman has been repeatedly interviewed and never once said anything to indicate that she saw the sailor's act as an “assault”; she has spoken of it as an impulsive expression of joy

and gratitude to military nurses. “Leopard” explains that women are taught to suppress their discomfort at such unwanted intrusions out of deference to men. Yet if Friedman had any discomfort to suppress, why come forward as the woman in the image? Who's ignoring the woman's feelings now?

There are many good reasons to criticize traditional attitudes toward women and sex, but to say that women before modern feminism were viewed simply as playthings to be used at men's whims is a grotesque exaggeration. Even in 1945, a woman grabbed and kissed by a tipsy stranger would have been, on any other occasion, cheered for slapping his face.

Finally, while unwanted kissing is certainly not acceptable behavior, to equate it with sexual assault is to trivialize a serious crime. It's quite true that sexual violence has often been ignored or minimized. Let us, by all means, address these issues. But let's also keep some perspective. Attacking beloved images does little except alienate the audience. So does portraying nearly all relations between the sexes as steeped in male victimization of women. An extreme term like “rape culture” does not initiate thoughtful discussion, it stifles it.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. This was written for Newsday.

Are we too numb to care about the Nobel prizes in science?

By MARY WOOLLEY
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A Nobel prize is the most widely sought-after and most treasured global recognition of our times, and rightly so. Achievements of laureates, including this year's winners, have had far-reaching impact on our lives, from discoveries related to stem-cell research and protein receptors to quantum particles.

Yet unlike the Olympics, the winners of the prizes for medicine and physiology, physics and chemistry—John Gurdon of Britain and Japan's Shinya Yamanaka, Serge Haroche of France and American David Wineland, and Americans Robert Lefkowitz and Brian Kobilka—will not be celebrated by a broad sector of society.

The truth is that three-quarters of Americans have incredible difficulty naming just one living scientist, Nobel laureates included. Whether from unfamiliarity in talking about science or from the mistaken assumption that science proceeds apace without need of public recognition or support, apathy has now extended to our elected officials. These are the individuals who will make critical decisions for our nation in the year ahead, many of them based, we hope, on facts, data and evidence.

In other words, based on science.

With few exceptions, political candidates are not talking about their pride in America's accomplishments in the field of science, nor are they telling voters what they will do if elected to assure continued American leadership. It's disturbing.

Research powers our search for cures and preventions and has the potential to contain out-of-control health care costs by keeping more of us healthy. A healthy employee is a productive worker; a healthy child won't strain education budgets; a healthy older adult is living independently. But our government seems to have stopped acting like it's in touch with these verities.

Research is at risk right now with pending across-the-board spending cuts for federal agencies next year. The National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health agencies would face budget cuts of more than 8 percent, which, on top of previous flat-funding, means we are dropping to funding levels that can't possibly sustain medical innovation to help cure and prevent Alzheimer's, heart disease, cancer, Parkinson's and other diseases.

Do you know anyone who would volunteer to wait even a month longer for a cure? An entrepreneur who would volunteer to wait for better days to start that new biotech business?

We have made significant progress over the years—deaths from heart disease have decreased 50 percent over the last 40 years, childhood cancer is now a treatable disease, vaccines prevent hospitalizations from the flu and dangerous flu-related infections. Why would we do anything to delay progress in research? Are we afraid to talk about science or afraid to talk about money?

That's the only essential ingredient of continued success that we don't have enough of right now. The talented workforce is ready, willing and able, although deeply discouraged and thinking of moving to China or other nations where science is on a clear upward

trajectory, where it has been made a high public priority, with strong government funding and policies to match.

Unfortunately, elected officials and candidates running for office seem not to have recognized the transformative power of research, or if they have, they aren't talking about it. Do they support a robust investment in research to combat disease and spur the economy? Do they believe in a stronger commitment to science, technology, engineering and math education to cultivate the next generation of Nobel laureates?

We simply don't know, since these questions remain largely unanswered by candidates despite the realities of global competitiveness and just plain common sense. Public opinion polls commissioned by Research!America, a nonprofit advocacy alliance, show a majority of likely voters want candidates to express their views on medical research. Voters consider research a bread-and-butter issue, because of the way it impacts their quality of life. As the Honorable Paul Rogers (former member of Congress) has stated, “Without research, there is no hope.”






Have elected officials become too numb to the reality that world-class science doesn't happen without a world-class commitment? We must elect candidates who will make science a priority. That should be a no-brainer.

Mary Woolley is president and CEO of Research!America (www.researchamerica.org). Readers may write to her at: Research!America, 1101 King Street, Suite 520, Alexandria, Va. 22314; email: mwoolley@researchamerica.org.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

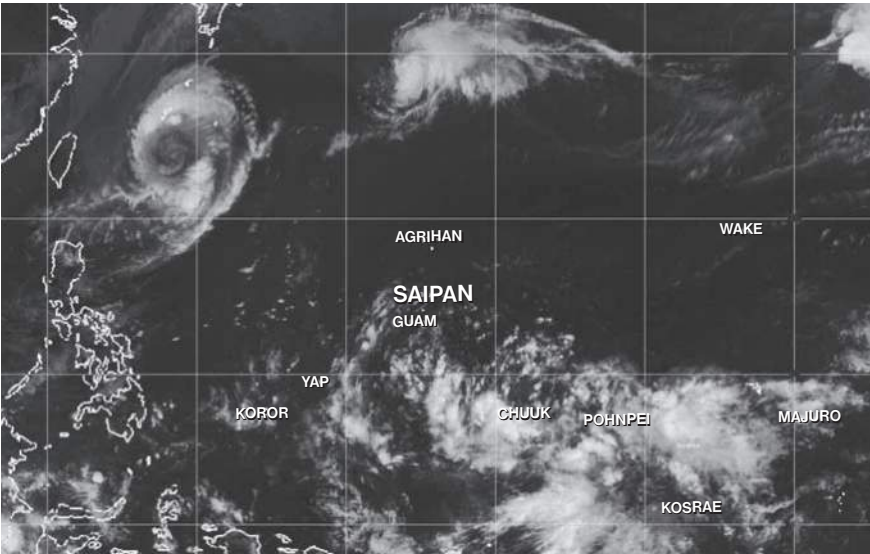
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 74
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 73
London	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 66
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Osaka	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 61
Paris	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 60
Pusan	Windy	▲ 69 ▼ 54
Rome	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 57
Salem	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 61
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 47
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 67 ▼ 61
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 53

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Prapiroon (22W) is centered 200 miles south-southeast of Okinawa at 24N129E. Scattered showers are found west of a line from 20N131E to 25N133E. For more information on Tropical Storm Prapiroon, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header wtpn31 pgtw. A surface trough runs southeastward from 8N140E through a broad, weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei near 5N154E to EQ164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found mainly west of Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 11N145E to 4N152E. Similar weather is found over Pohnpei between 9N and the equator from 152E to 160E. Isolated thunderstorms are located east of Yap within 80 miles of a line from 14N143E to 9N140E to 4N144E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae between 10N and 2N from 160E to 168E and just north of Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 8N167E to 8N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:40 AM	8:21 PM
Friday	9:43 AM	9:22 PM
Saturday	10:43 AM	10:23 PM
Sunday	11:39 AM	11:23 PM
Monday	12:30 PM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)
UA5062 2:40am 3:10am 1, 3, 5	UA5062 3:45am 5:40am 1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)
UA5062 2:40am 3:15am 1, 3, 5	UA5062 3:40am 4:15am 1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062 2:40am 4:20am 1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062 4:50am 5:40am 1, 3, 5	UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily	UA5071 7:10am 8:00am Daily
UA5074 11:30am 12:20pm 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073 10:05am 10:55am Daily
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily	UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078 6:50pm 7:40pm Daily	UA5077 5:25pm 6:15pm Daily
UA5072 9:55pm 10:45pm Daily	UA5079 8:35pm 9:25pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1	OZ603 8:50am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ604 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily	OZ605 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)	PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)
U2608 3:20am 6:35am 4, 7	OZ607 9:25pm 2:20am+1 3, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:20am 11:05am 1 via ICN	DL172/288 7:50am 12:50am+1 Daily via NRT
OZ606/701 2:50am 11:05am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077 10:55am 6:15pm 3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079 10:55am 9:25pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:05am 10:00pm Daily via NRT	OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM	OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193 3:10pm 10:25pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703 3:30pm 10:45pm Daily via ICN	UA192/5071 9:45pm 8:00am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
	UA184/5071 11:25pm 8:00am+1 2, 5 via GUM
	OZ704/603 11:45pm 2:20pm+1 Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50pm 1 via ICN	OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:10am+1 7
UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749 3:30pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA180/5071 10:50pm 8:00am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily				
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Citigroup picks veteran to replace Pandit as CEO

NEW YORK (AP)—In picking Michael Corbat to take over as CEO of Citigroup, the board of directors chose a low-profile veteran of the bank—a sharp contrast to Vikram Pandit, his suddenly departed predecessor.

Corbat, 52, has spent his entire career at Citigroup and its affiliated businesses. A former All-American offensive lineman on Harvard's football team, Corbat worked his way up the ranks at Salomon Brothers, helped Citi navigate the 2008 financial crisis, rebuilt its credit-card business and, most recently, ran the bank's operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Perhaps partly because he has spent so much time at one bank and partly because of the sudden nature of his elevation, few on Wall Street had a quick opinion about him on Tuesday.

"Michael Corbat isn't well known to the Street, and his future strategic direction for the company is uncertain," Jason Goldberg, a banking

analyst at Barclays, wrote in a note to clients.

But it seemed nearly every analyst had an opinion about Pandit, who has led the bank for five years. Pandit spent most of his career at Morgan Stanley, then left to start a hedge fund, Old Lane Partners. When Citi bought Old Lane for \$800 million in April 2007, Pandit came with it, and wound up as CEO before the year was out.



Corbat

Sheila Bair, the former chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., criticized Pandit and offered tentative praise for Corbat in an interview with CNBC.

She said Citigroup needed a CEO with international experience and a traditional banking background, both of which Corbat has.

"The board is doing the right

thing here," Bair said.

Corbat called himself a "true believer in this Company" in a memo sent to Citigroup employees. The bank is on the right path, he wrote. But Corbat still plans on taking several weeks to examine the business and review chains of command.

"These assessments will result in some changes," he wrote.

Citigroup pointed to Corbat's work during the 2008 financial crisis, when he ran Citi Holdings, a "bad bank" created to help manage the conglomerate's many assets. He oversaw the sale of more than \$500 billion in assets and more than 40 businesses, including the bank's stake in Primerica, another financial services company. All of these moves freed up capital for the bank's core businesses, Citigroup said.

When Sallie Krawcheck, the bank's former head of global wealth management, was pushed out in the thick of the crisis, Corbat took charge of the unit.

Nissan shows safety features, electronic steering

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP)—Electronically managed steering that completely bypasses the mechanical link of a clutch is among the new safety technology from Japanese automaker Nissan. Other vehicles are smart enough to park themselves. And some swerve automatically to avoid pedestrians.

Nissan Motor Co. Executive Vice President Mitsuhiro Yamashita said the latest safety advancements are proactive, unlike air-bags and other "passive" features that are triggered by a crash.

Next-generation steering uses electronic signals to control tires, not a mechanical link. It's set to be introduced in an Infiniti luxury model within a year, and would be a world first for a commercially produced car. In the auto industry, the technology is being touted as the biggest

innovation in steering since the widespread adoption of power-assisted steering, which uses hydraulics to make turning the wheels easier.

Nissan executives say electronic steering is safer because drivers tend to overcompensate, such as when traveling in gusty wind, and veer off too much. They say the feature also adds to the psychological sense of security for the driver, which in turn contributes to safety because stress is often behind accidents.

With the technology, sensations of bumpy roads get mitigated and steering becomes super-quick and fine-tuned, Nissan said.

Vehicles equipped with electronic steering will still come with a mechanical clutch as a backup that kicks in if the electronic system fails.

Nissan also showed "autono-

mous emergency steering," designed to avoid collisions through turns when braking would be too late.

Although many automakers, including Volkswagen AG, Toyota Motor Corp. and Ford Motor Co., offer automatic braking, Nissan's still experimental system takes the idea a step further to steer away in unexpected situations such as a pedestrian suddenly moving into the path of a vehicle.

But Yamashita acknowledged the technology, which relies on radars and cameras, is still incomplete, and the vehicle still could crash into something else just as it steers away from the pedestrian.

Nissan also showed nifty parking technology that senses if the driver mistakenly steps on the gas pedal instead of the brakes, and corrects that.

Toysrus.com and babiesrus.com. "We're proud of our prices," Steinhafel told the audience. "We believe this plays into our strength. But we also want to ensure our (customers) that they can shop with confidence."

Battery maker A123 files for bankruptcy protection

DETROIT (AP)—After years of struggling in the nascent market for electric cars, battery maker A123 Systems Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday. The filing drew criticism from Republicans who claim the Obama administration has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars on alternative energy companies like A123. The company received a \$249 million Department of Energy grant three years ago with high hopes that it would help foster a U.S. battery industry. At the time, the country was far behind the world leaders, Korea and China. But the technology offered by the Waltham, Mass.-based A123 Systems turned out to be ahead of its time. Americans continue to shun costly electric cars in favor of gas-powered ones.

Nation

Obama, Romney in crackling debate



Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama spar during the second presidential debate at Hofstra University, Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012, in Hempstead, N.Y.

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—An aggressive President Barack Obama accused challenger Mitt Romney of peddling a "sketchy deal" to fix the U.S. economy and playing politics with the deadly terrorist attack in Libya in a Tuesday night debate crackling with energy and emotion just three weeks before the election.

Romney pushed back hard, saying the middle class "has been crushed over the last four years" under Obama's leadership and that 23 million Americans are still struggling to find work. He contended the death of the U.S. ambassador to Libya was part of an unraveling of the administration's foreign policy.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama assumed responsibility Tuesday for the deadly terror attack in Libya last month that killed four Americans just hours after Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton sought to shoulder the blame for any mistakes the administration made.

"She works for me," the president said in New York in his second presidential debate with Republican challenger Mitt Romney. "I'm the president and I'm always responsible, and that's why nobody's more interested in finding out exactly what happened than I do."

With three weeks before the presidential election, the administration has been unable to put to rest its handling of the Benghazi attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens, a State Department computer specialist and two former Navy SEALs who were working as contract security guards.

The president was feistier from the outset than he had been in their initial encounter two weeks ago, when he turned in a listless performance that sent shudders through his sup-

porters and helped fuel a rise by Romney in opinion polls nationally and in some battleground states.

When Romney said Tuesday night that he had a five-point plan to create 12 million jobs, Obama said, "Gov. Romney says he's got a five-point plan. Gov. Romney doesn't have a five-point plan. He has a one-point plan. And that plan is to make sure that folks at the top play by a different set of rules."

Obama and Romney disagreed, forcefully and repeatedly—about taxes, the bailout of the auto industry, measures to reduce the deficit, energy, pay equity for women and health care as well as foreign policy across 90 minutes of a town-hall style debate.

Immigration prompted yet another clash, Romney saying Obama had failed to pursue the comprehensive legislation he promised at the dawn of his administration, and the president saying Republican obstinacy made a deal impossible.

Romney gave as good as he got.

"You'll get your chance in a moment. I'm still speaking," the former Massachusetts governor said at one point while Obama was mid-sentence, drawing a gasp from the audience. He said the president's policies had failed to jumpstart the economy and had cramped energy production.

The open-stage format left the two men free to stroll freely across a red-carpeted stage, and they did. Their clashes crackled with energy and tension, and the crowd watched raptly as the two sparred while struggling to appear calm and affable before a national television audience.

While most of the debate was focused on policy differences, there was one more personal moment, when Obama said Romney had investments in China.

"Mr. President, have you looked at your pension?" Romney interrupted.

"You know, I don't look at my pension. It's not as big as yours," shot back Obama to his wealthier rival.

Obama noted Romney's business background to rebut his opponent's plans to fix the economy and prevent federal deficits from climbing ever higher.

"Now, Gov. Romney was a very successful investor. If somebody came to you, Governor, with a plan that said, here, I want to spend \$7 or \$8 trillion, and then we're going to pay for it, but we can't tell you until maybe after the election how we're going to do it, you wouldn't take such a sketchy deal and neither should you, the American people, because the math doesn't add up."

Countered Romney, a few minutes later, "It does add up."

Under the format agreed to in advance, members of an audience of 82 uncommitted voters posed questions to the president and his challenger.

Nearly all of them concerned domestic policy until one raised the subject of the recent death of the U.S. ambassador to Libya in a terrorist attack at an American post in Benghazi. Romney said it took Obama a long time to admit the episode had been a terrorist attack, but Obama said he had said so the day after in an appearance in the Rose Garden outside the White House.

When moderator Candy Crowley of CNN said the president had in fact done so, Obama, prompted, "Say that a little louder, Candy."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has taken responsibility for the death of Ambassador L. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans, but Obama said bluntly, "I'm the president, and I'm always responsible."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tame US prices, more confident builders aid growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The outlook for the U.S. economy brightened a little Tuesday after reports that consumer prices stayed tame and homebuilder confidence rose to the highest level in six years. A third report showed factory output grew only modestly in September, a reminder that the economy is still weak. Low inflation could give consumers even more incentive to spend at a time when their confidence is at a five-year high. That could boost growth and help lift American manufacturers out from their slump.

Target to match some rivals' online prices

NEW YORK (AP)—In the latest effort to beat Amazon.com at its game, Target says that for the first time it will match prices that customers find on identical products at select online competitors this holiday season. Target Corp.'s CEO Gregg Steinhafel told about 80 reporters at a company media conference Tuesday that the retailers include Amazon.com, Walmart.com, Bestbuy.com,

Asia

Chinese warships cross waters near Japan island



In this photo released by Japan's Joint Staff Office, a Chinese frigate sails in waters off the island of Yonaguni in Japan's Okinawa prefecture on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012.

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and China are trading a new round of criticism after Japanese military aircraft spotted seven Chinese warships in waters off a southern island not far from a chain of isles at the center of a heated territory dispute. China said the ships were on a routine training mission.

The Chinese ships were sighted Tuesday about 49 kilometers (30 miles) from the island of Yonaguni, in Japan's Okinawa prefecture (state), according to Japan's Defense Ministry. They were about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from a chain of small islands that have sparked a heated dispute between Japan and China.

The ships were believed to be returning to China after training in the Pacific. Japan's Defense Ministry on Wednesday said the ships were not headed for the

disputed islands, but said it was the first time the Chinese navy has been spotted using the narrow sea passage near Yonaguni.

Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto said Japan is monitoring the ships' movement. Japan considers the area part of its contiguous waters, but it is not illegal for foreign vessels to transit them.

It is not unusual for the Chinese navy to transit waters around Okinawa en route to the Pacific, but they usually go through wider straits. The ships included frigates, a guided missile destroyer, a supply ship and two submarine rescue vessels.

Defense Ministry officials said the ships might have been trying to avoid an approaching typhoon.

China's Defense Ministry said the ships were on a sched-

uled cruising exercise and were acting in a manner that was "appropriate and legal."

Underscoring China's sharper stance, it also protested the scrambling of a Japanese military plane in the direction of the disputed islands, calling that a "gross violation" of Chinese sovereign rights.

"The Chinese military is closely following the actions of the Japanese side and demands Japan halt all actions complicating or escalating the situation," the ministry said in a short statement on its website.

Japan angered China last month by nationalizing part of the chain of uninhabited East China Sea islands called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. The move sparked violent protests in China.

Japan decries alleged rape by US troops on Okinawa

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's defense minister said Wednesday he was deeply concerned by the alleged rape of a woman on the island of Okinawa by two U.S. military servicemen and suggested the U.S. take more measures to assure such crimes do not recur.

"This is a very serious crime," Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto told reporters. Morimoto said the case follows another sexual assault in August, and he indicated he was considering discussing the matter with U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

Okinawan police arrested the two U.S. sailors on Tuesday. They were identified as Seaman Christopher Browning and Petty Officer 3rd Class Skyler Dozier-walker of the Fort Worth Naval Air Base in Texas. Both are 23. According to Japanese media

reports, they had been drinking before they attacked the woman, in her 20s, who was on her way home before dawn Tuesday.

The two were in Japanese police custody, according to Okinawa Prefectural Police spokesman Takashi Shirado.

The arrests sparked immediate anger on Okinawa, which hosts more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan and has recently seen massive protests against plans to deploy the Marine Corps' MV-22 Osprey to a base there because of safety concerns.

Tensions between the U.S. military and their Okinawans hosts are endemic, and base-related crimes are a particularly sensitive issue.

Local opposition to the U.S. bases over noise, safety concerns and crime flared into mass

protests after the 1995 rape of a schoolgirl by three American servicemen. That outcry eventually led to an agreement to close a major Marine airfield, but that plan has stalled for more than a decade over where a replacement facility should be located.

Concerned that anti-base sentiment on Okinawa could swell, Vice Foreign Minister Shuji Kira lodged a protest with U.S. Ambassador John Roos, who promised full cooperation with the investigation.

"The United States Government is extremely concerned by recent allegations of misconduct by two individual United States service members," Roos said in a statement. "We are committed to cooperating fully with the Japanese authorities in their investigation."

Surgery delayed for Filipino dog that lost snout

DAVIS, California (AP)—A dog from the Philippines who became an international hero after she sacrificed her snout to save two young girls will have to wait a little longer for surgery to replace her missing muzzle. *The Sacramento Bee* reports that veterinarians at the University of California, Davis said Tuesday that Kabang needs treatment for heartworm and chemotherapy for a vaginal tumor before she can undergo facial reconstruction. The mixed-breed dog ended up in Davis last week after a nurse from Buffalo, New York, spearheaded a fundraising campaign to bring her to the U.S. Veterinarians in the Philippines had been unable to treat her injuries.

World

90 dead in Syrian regime attacks on rebel areas

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian military unleashed heavy airstrikes and artillery bombardments targeting rebel strongholds in the north on Tuesday, killing at least 90 people according to activists.

The barrage came as the U.N. food agency warned that more and more Syrians are depending on assistance from the World Food Program to stay alive with the civil war worsening.

The airstrikes hit northern Idlib and Aleppo provinces, both bordering Turkey. Activists described them as some of the worst since rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad took over the key city of Maaret al-Numan in Idlib on Oct. 10. The city lies along the main highway connecting Aleppo with the cities to the south, including Homs and the capital Damascus.

Assad's regime has increasingly relied on warplanes in its struggle to crush rebels who

have taken over large swathes of territory in the north.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the airstrikes were "concentrated and intensive" and the worst in weeks. He said warplanes carried out 12 raids in the area of Maaret al-Numan in one hour. The group relies on a network of activists on the ground.

Abdul-Rahman said at least 90 people were killed in airstrikes and artillery shelling. He said it is often difficult to determine "what hit a town or a village" in the immediate aftermath of a strike. The Local Coordination Committees, another activist group, put the death toll from airstrikes and artillery strikes at 96.

In addition to the air bombardment, Human Rights Watch on Sunday cited allegations that Assad's government has been using cluster

bombs—which are banned by most nations. The U.S. based group cited amateur video and testimony from the front lines. The Syrian military denied the reports, saying in a statement late Monday that the allegations were "baseless and are part of media propaganda that aims to divert international public opinion from crimes committed by armed terrorist groups."

Syrian authorities blame the civil war in the country on armed gangs and terrorists carrying out a foreign conspiracy to destabilize the country.

Fighting also continued in Aleppo, Syria's largest city with 3 million residents and its former business capital. Activists reported airstrikes in the town of al-Bab in Aleppo province.

Activists say that more than 33,000 people have died in the Syrian conflict, which began in March 2011 as a peaceful uprising against Assad's regime but morphed into a civil war.

Praise, skepticism as Cuba eases travel rules

HAVANA (AP)—For the first time since the height of the Cold War more than half a century ago, Cuba is giving its people the freedom to leave the country without government permission, scrapping the detested exit visa that kept many from traveling outside the communist nation for even a few days.

The announcement Tuesday came as blockbuster news on the island, where citizens were ecstatic at the prospect of being able to leave for a vacation—or even forever—with only a passport and a visa from the country of their destination.

"Wow, how great!" said Mercedes Delgado, a 73-year-old retiree. "Citizens' rights are being restored. ... Let's hope this is a breakthrough to keep returning the rights that they have taken away from us."

KSM, 2 other Gitmo defendants don't show in court

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Three Sept. 11 defendants took a judge up on his offer to let them skip their military tribunal Tuesday and the proceedings went on without them. The Guantanamo detainees won a new request to return to court in camouflage clothing if they wanted.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-professed 9/11 mastermind, was not in the courtroom while attorneys delved into a dense debate on legal motions, including rules for handling classified evidence at trial and what kind of clothing would be allowed.

Only two of the five defendants made it to court for the second day of the weeklong hearing. Mohammed, Saudi defendant Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi and Pakistani na-

The decree still allows Cuban authorities the ability to deny travel by many Cubans for reasons of defense and "national security," suggesting that dissidents may continue to face restrictions. So will doctors, scientists, athletes, members of the military and others considered key contributors, as well as those who face criminal charges.

An end to the hated exit visa had been promised since last year by President Raul Castro as part of his five-year reform plan. Analysts called it the latest and biggest step in a gradual relaxation of restrictions on things like opening private small businesses, owning cell phones, staying in tourist hotels and buying and selling homes and cars.

"It's an important step forward in human rights, the

ability to travel outside of your country without the government's permission," said Philip Peters, a longtime Cuba analyst at the Virginia-based Lexington Institute think tank.

"It eliminates a horrendous and offensive bureaucratic obstacle to travel."

Starting Jan. 14, Cubans will no longer have to apply for the costly "tarjeta blanca," or "white card," ending a restriction in place since 1961, the height of the Cold War.

The measure also extends to 24 months the amount of time Cubans can remain abroad, and they can request an extension when that runs out. Currently, Cubans lose residency and their rights to property, social security, free health care and free education after 11 months overseas.

dismissed the military tribunal with scorn, saying "I don't think there is any justice in this court."

Authorities have portrayed the other defendants as Mohammed's underlings, who provided logistical and other help to the Sept. 11 hijackers. All five face the same charges, which include terrorism and murder, in what is considered one of the most significant terror prosecutions in U.S. history. They all could get the death penalty if convicted at a trial that is at least a year away.

Al-Hawsawi and al-Aziz Ali didn't provide any reason for their absence, but a lawyer for al-Aziz Ali had said on Monday that his client's father had recently died in Kuwait and he was grieving for him.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China prepares send-off for late Cambodia ex-king

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Chinese police escorted Cambodia's former King Norodom Sihanouk's body from a Beijing hospital to the airport Wednesday morning for its return to Phnom Penh, where tens of thousands are expected to line a mourning route. Sihanouk died Monday at age 89 of a heart attack in Beijing, where he had been receiving medical treatment since January. Beijing traffic authorities cleared several roads and a highway as a bus decorated with yellow flowers and apparently carrying Sihanouk's body traveled to the airport with a few dozen black cars and minibuses.

In Celebration of His New Life

† **ANTONIO MARIA TUDELA TORRES**

Lovingly known as "Poki"

September 02, 1946 – October 15, 2012

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Consolacion (Connie) Castro DelaCruz Torres (Apigigi)

Children: Christine Ana DelaCruz Torres & Sylvan Olopai Igisomar
(Landon Anthony) – TX
Ana Maria DelaCruz Torres

Brothers, Sister and In-Laws:

Estanislao (Stanley McGinnis) T./Ana (Arlene) Cabrera Torres;
Stanley/Juanny G. (Nathan & Amari) – GU
Regina Ann (Brandon, Sean, Hannah, & Estanislao) – HI
Kenneth/Mae Rose DLC. (Taylor, Emme & Aloha) – VA
Charles/Yuxin
Anthony (Isiah) – HI
Jeric Nolan – HI
Jane Terese

Ana Taisakan Torres

Doris Marie T./Luis T. Duenas (Luis Jr. & Lorenza)
Emerita (Isaac) – WA
Carlos/Percy B. (Janessa & Charly) – OR

Dolores T./Manuel Untalan Fejeran – GU

Michael (Mikey) – GU

Vicente T./Rosita (Lupe) Cruz Torres – GU

Lynda DLC Toves

Ana C. DelaCruz/Roy Ichihara & Family – CA

Antonio C. DelaCruz/Jacinta I. Castro & Family

Ramon C./Isabelita (Baby) DelaCruz & Family

Josephine DLC./Fredrick (Fred) GA & Family - CA

Godparents:

Baptismal Godparents: Isabel Pangelinan Duenas
†Juan Manibusan Castro

Confirmation Godfather: †Jose Roberto Quitano

Marriage Godfather: Juan Tenorio Castro

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Carlos Arriola & †Ana Borja Tudela Torres

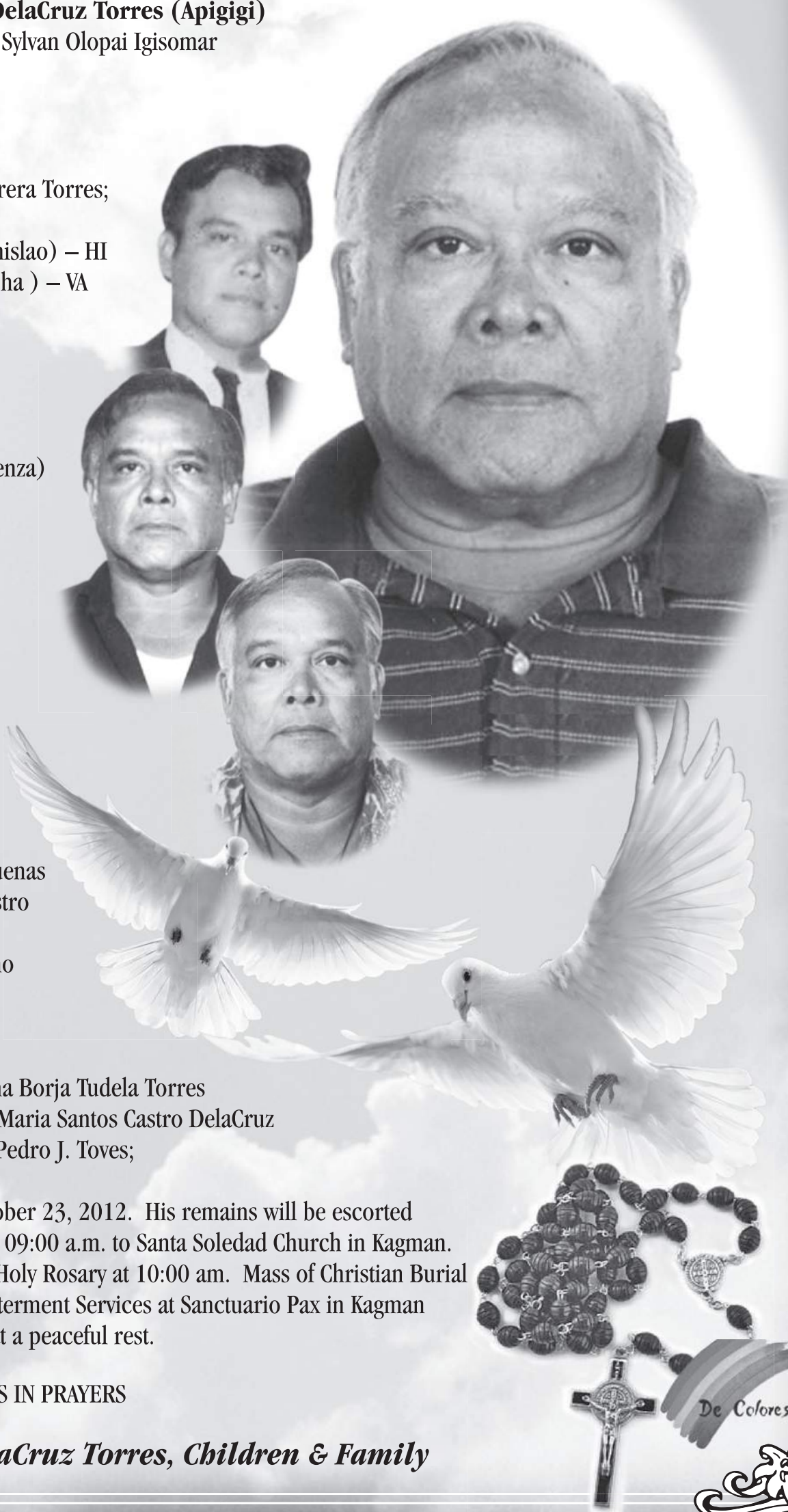
Parents-in-law: †Manuel Tenorio & †Maria Santos Castro DelaCruz

Brother and In-Law: †Emilio Torres and †Pedro J. Toves;

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 09:00 a.m. to Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. Responso services will be at 09:30 am followed by Holy Rosary at 10:00 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 01:00 p.m. followed by Interment Services at Santuario Pax in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Consolacion (Connie) Castro DelaCruz Torres, Children & Family



Environment

Pacific governments plan a better future from aquaculture

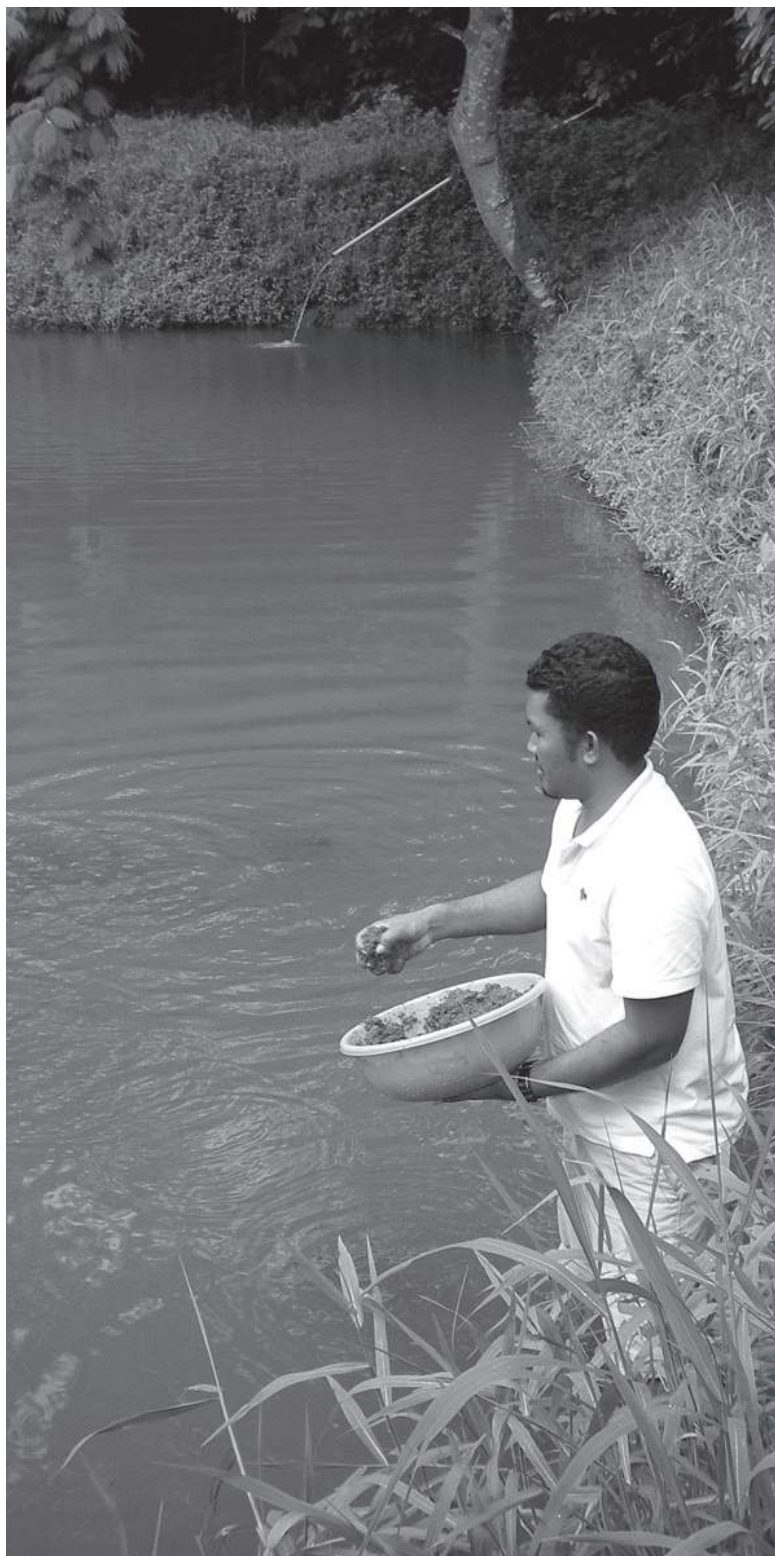
NOUMEA, New Caledonia—“Prevention is better than cure” is the main message emerging from the Food and Agriculture Organization/SPC Regional Workshop on Aquatic Biosecurity and Aquaculture Data and Statistics in the Pacific Region held in Nadi, Fiji, last week.

Representatives from the fisheries and the quarantine departments of 21 Pacific Island countries and territories met with experts from FAO and Secretariat of the Pacific Community to develop strategies that address future aquaculture management challenges.

The principal outcome of the meeting is a broad regional plan of action on aquatic biosecurity and aquaculture statistics. This will be jointly implemented by FAO and SPC, in partnership with Pacific countries, to provide technical assistance on the aquatic biosecurity and statistics areas they decided are priorities for the region.

Aquaculture (fish farming) is the fastest growing food-producing sector in the world, contributing nearly 50 percent of food fish supply. The Pacific Islands' aquaculture sector is still quite small, but expansion is widely expected to help meet the increasing demand for fish by the region's rapidly growing populations. Most Pacific countries are keen to move forward with aquaculture development for food security, livelihoods, and fisheries re-stocking.

The impacts of Pacific aquaculture on environments have so far been small, so this is perfect timing for planning ways to manage and reduce future impacts. Risks in the farming sector include diseases of livestock and plants, and ecological effects from cross-border movements. The collection of data and statistics needs strengthening at national and regional levels to better support aquaculture sector management, sound business planning, and assessment of socio-economic benefits.



Most fish farms in the Pacific region, such as this one in Samoa, are small scale and their impact on the environment is limited. It is the perfect time for planning ways to manage and reduce future impacts.

Pacific environments are largely pristine and in good condition for farming fish, but the geography poses challenges for environmental management. Islands are widely scattered, technical capacity is limited, and communication to rural areas can be difficult.

The workshop participants identified strategies to address key challenges. It was concluded that assessments of challenges such as technical and economic feasibility should precede analysis of hazards and risks. A wide range of risk assessment tools for specific hazards (e.g. pathogens and food safety, which are governed by international standards) are available and can be used as a reference for analyzing other risks and can also be applied by resource managers as decision-making tools for aquatic animal movements or new aquaculture enterprise development. Some Pacific nations and territories have already been introduced to risk analysis and have practical experiences that can be shared with the region.

Capacity building will be a vital element in areas such as basic disease diagnosis for some countries and new and sophisticated methods of fish disease diagnosis using molecular diagnostic techniques for the more advanced aquaculture territories. Bringing together representatives from agriculture, veterinary, fisheries and aquaculture sectors in this workshop provided ample opportunity to understand and address biosecurity concerns in a holistic manner through updates on different approaches, techniques, and guidelines (voluntary and obligatory) that apply to aquatic species.

The goal is for existing capabilities to be reinforced, up-scaled and strengthened in a coordinated manner at national and regional levels, for the sustainable development and sound management of aquaculture in the Pacific region. (SPC)

EPA announces new electronic filing system for environmental reviews

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently launched e-NEPA, a new online system that allows federal agencies to submit environmental impact statements, or EIS's, electronically.

Traditionally, EIS's have been submitted to EPA in hard copy. e-NEPA eliminates the need to mail or deliver copies of EIS's to EPA headquarters, reducing printing, shipping, and delivery costs. It also saves time through electronic filing and e-confirmation and improves transparency, allowing EPA to post EIS documents to EPA's website.

“The release of e-NEPA is an important step forward in advancing the President's commitment to streamline the federal environmental review

ON THE NET

- More information about e-NEPA:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/submiteis/index.html>
- More information about NEPA:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/index.html>
- More information about how to file an EIS electronically:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/submiteis/guide-to-e-nepa-electronic-submittal-of-eis.pdf>

process,” said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Through electronic filing, we are making it easier for federal agencies to submit environmental impact statements, allowing them to save time and reduce costs, while making the process more transparent for the public.”

The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to integrate environmental considerations into their decision-making processes by identifying the environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives to their proposed actions. To meet NEPA requirements federal agencies prepare detailed analyses known as EIS's. EPA reviews, provides comments, and maintains a national filing system for EISs.

Beginning on Oct. 1, 2012, all agencies are required to use the e-NEPA filing system.

DO YOUR PART

Top 5 ways to green your Halloween costume

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Make your child's Halloween costume a bit more eek-o-friendly this year. There are plenty of ways to come up with a creative get-up without buying a brand new costume. Plus, there are a few popular Halloween accessories that you may just want to consider avoiding this season. Here are my ‘Top 5 Ways to Green Your Halloween Costume’ so you can Do Your Part during the spookiest time of the year.

1) TAKE PART IN A COSTUME SWAP

Costume swaps are taking place all over the country this year. You can host your own swap party with family and friends or visit GreenHalloween.org to find out how you can participate in National Costume Swap Day. You'll not only give once-used costumes a longer life, you'll also be saving a whole lot of money by not buying a new one.

2) GO TO GOODWILL

Goodwill is a Halloween enthusiast's playground. Whether you're looking for an outrageous outfit, costume jewelry, or fancy dress shoes to complete your Halloween vision, you're sure to find it here and all for a steal!

3) SEEK OUT NON-TOXIC MAKE-UP

Ban toxic Halloween make-up from your costume. Color additives used in make-up are to be approved by the FDA, so look for that on the label. You can see the entire list of approved color additives at DoYourPart.com/Columns. You will also find a link to The Environmental Working Group's website where you can find a variety of safe, homemade make-up recipes. And one last note, at the end of the night

make sure to wash your face several times to remove all that ghoulish make-up.

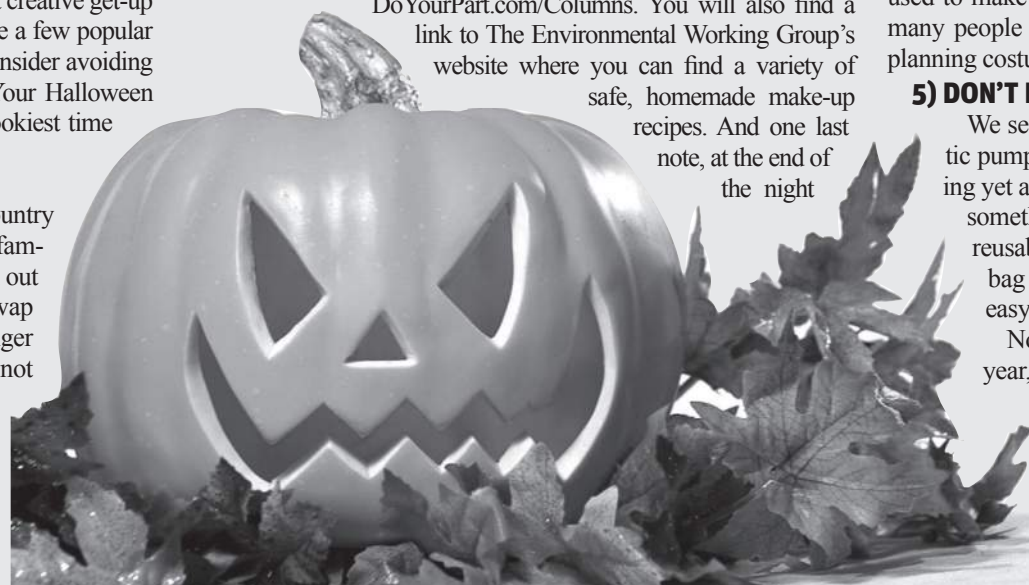
4) WATCH THE TEETH!

We've all heard plenty about the potential dangers of certain kinds of flexible plastic that can contain hormone-disrupting phthalates. Some of the plastic considered dangerous is actually used to make Halloween masks and those fake teeth you see so many people putting in their mouths. Best to avoid these when planning costumes for children.

5) DON'T BUY ANOTHER PLASTIC PUMPKIN

We see them on the arm of so many cute kids—that plastic pumpkin to collect trick or treat goodies. Instead of buying yet another plastic pumpkin, have your child bring along something reusable instead. It could be a pillowcase or a reusable shopping bag. They can even make a ‘custom’ bag out of one of their favorite t-shirts. It's quick and easy and available at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

No matter what the kids, young or old, decide to be this year, you can still Do Your Part to go green when creating the perfect costume. Happy Halloween!



Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of *Do Your Part*, a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life&Style

Fans stand and cheer for author J.K. Rowling

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Just the mention of her name, J.K. Rowling, had the audience screaming and on its feet.

The “Harry Potter” author spoke for just over an hour before a capacity crowd Tuesday night at Manhattan’s Lincoln Center in her sole U.S. public appearance to promote her first novel for grownups, “The Casual Vacancy.”

Dressed in a dark skirt and dark sweater blouse, Rowling chatted on stage with fellow author Ann Patchett, read briefly from her new book and also responded to pre-selected questions from fans. Rowling spoke before some 2,500 people, mostly women, gathered under the high, golden ceiling of the David H. Koch Auditorium.

Patchett, who has a wide following of her own thanks to such novels as “Bel Canto,” warned at the start that she was not “particularly nice.” Rowling had nothing to fear. Patchett gushed like the most avid Potter fan as she praised Rowling for inspiring countless readers and told Rowling how much she loved “The Casual Vacancy,” which has received mixed reviews. It was a grownup, writerly conversation, with a



British writer J.K. Rowling poses for the photographers with her new book, entitled ‘The Casual Vacancy’, at the Southbank Centre in London, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012.

few four-letter words thrown in and a brief detour into the latest phenomenon, EL James’ erotic “Fifty Shades of Gray.” When Patchett criticized James’ writing as inferior, Rowling replied,

“But that’s porn.”

Rowling said she felt a special connection to adolescents because of their “vulnerability” and how they come to comprehend there is “evil in the world.”

Stories, she said, can help them explore their feelings.

Rowling also discussed the difficulty of structuring a book and how attached she becomes to her characters. She spoke up for traditional publishers and the editorial support they offer as she explained why she didn’t simply self-publish “The Casual Vacancy.”

She didn’t just change her subject matter when she took on the new book. She changed the process. Rowling observed that with her Potter books, she did not allow anyone—not even her husband, Neil Murray—to see the manuscript before she had finished. “I find that discussing an idea before I’ve written it,” she said, is a way to kill it. But Murray was allowed early glimpses of “The Casual Vacancy.”

“He was—useful,” she said.

Rowling reaffirmed that she is at work on a new book for young people. No new Potter is planned, but Rowling still has her celebrated imaginary world in mind. Discussing literary works she’d like to live in, she mentioned Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice,” then confided she also dreams of more personal territory, the old school of Harry and friends.

“I do still walk in and out of Hogwarts,” she said.

Hilary Mantel wins 2nd Booker Prize for Tudor saga

LONDON (AP)—British writer Hilary Mantel won the prestigious Booker literary prize for a second time Tuesday with her blood-soaked Tudor saga “Bring Up the Bodies,” which the head of the judging panel said had “rewritten the book” on historical fiction.

Mantel, who took the 50,000 pound (\$82,000) award in 2009 for “Wolf Hall,” is the first British author, and the first woman, to achieve a Booker double.

“You wait 20 years for a Booker Prize, and two come along at once,” Mantel said as she accepted the award at London’s medieval Guildhall. “I regard this as an act of faith and a vote of confidence.”

Mantel, who quipped in 2009 that she planned to spend her prize money on sex and drugs and rock ‘n’ roll, said “I’m afraid the answer will be much duller this year.”

“Rehab,” she joked, before adding: “My pension, probably.”

“Bring Up the Bodies” is the first sequel to win the prize. It and “Wolf Hall” are parts of a planned trilogy about Thomas Cromwell, the powerful and ambiguous chief minister to King Henry VIII.

Alternately thoughtful and thuggish, trying to keep his head in a treacherous world, Mantel’s Cromwell has drawn

comparisons to the Mafia don at the center of the “Godfather” saga, and Mantel’s novel combines finely wrought prose with thriller touches.

“You can see as much Don Corleone in this book as D.H. Lawrence,” said Times Literary Supplement editor Peter Stothard, who chaired the Booker judging panel.

“This is a bloody story,” he said. “But Hilary Mantel is a writer who thinks through the blood. She uses her art, her power of prose, to create moral ambiguity.”

“Bring Up the Bodies” traces the intertwined fates of Cromwell and the monarch’s second wife, Anne Boleyn, who fell from favor when she failed to produce a male heir.

Stothard said the new book “utterly surpassed” the earlier novel, breathing new life into a well-known story. Henry VIII’s reign has inspired many fictional treatments, from the acclaimed play and film “A Man for All Seasons” to the soapy TV series “The Tudors.”

Stothard said “Bring Up the Bodies” showed “the greatest modern English prose writer reviving possibly one of the best-known pieces of English history.”

“This is all well-trodden territory with an inevitable outcome, and yet she is able to bring it to life as though for the first time,” he said.

“She has rewritten the book on writing historical fiction.”

The judging panel, which included “Downton Abbey” actor Dan Stevens, met for just over

two hours Tuesday to pick its winner.

The Booker, established in 1969, usually brings a huge sales and publicity boost for the winner.

Before she won three years ago, Mantel was a critically

praised but commercially lukewarm author of novels about everything from the French Revolution (“A Place of Greater Safety”) to the life of a psychic medium (“Beyond Black”). Now, the 60-year-old author is a best-selling literary sensation.

“My publishers were always announcing my breakthrough book and it never really happened,” she said of her early career. “My fortunes began to turn when I met Thomas Cromwell.”

Mantel joins Peter Carey of Australia and J.M. Coetzee of South Africa as a two-time winner of the prize, which is open to writers from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth of for-



Mantel

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Here Comes The Boom

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Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
A dedicated teacher attempts to rescue his school's music program by risking life and limb as a mixed martial arts fighter. Kevin James and Henry Winkler star in an action comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click).

Argo

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Ben Affleck, Alan Arkin, John Goodman
Genre: Thriller • Rated R

Sinister

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ethan Hawke, James Ransone, Vincent D'Onofrio
Genre: Horror • Rated R

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Frankenweenie 3D

Friday		7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		7:05	

Cast: Charlie Tahan, Winona Ryder, Martin Landau
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG

Taken 2

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen
Genre: Thriller • Rated PG13

Pitch Perfect

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG13

Frankenweenie 2D

Friday		4:05
Saturday		4:05
Sunday		4:05
Monday thru Thursday		4:05

Cast: Charlie Tahan, Winona Ryder, Martin Landau
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG

Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday		7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday		4:25
Saturday		4:25
Sunday		4:25
Monday thru Thursday		4:25

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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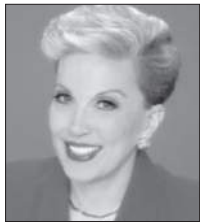
Marine vet's decision-making hints at a more serious issue

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Worried Mom in Gainesville, Fla." (July 13), whose son was not allowed to re-enlist in the Marine Corps.

I hate to say this, but that young man knew darned well when he got those tattoos he would not be able to re-enlist. The U.S. Navy (which the Marine Corps "technically" falls under) passed the New Enlistment Tattoo Policy in January 2003, with the Marine Corps adding its policy in April 2007.

SPOUSE OF RETIRED NAVY CPO



Dear Abby

DEAR SPOUSE: You are correct. Many readers wrote to say the Navy had passed new tattoo policies in 2003 and the Marine Corps followed suit in 2007. If re-enlisting is so important to "Worried Mom's" son, all he needs to do is have his "tatts" removed. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The issue isn't time served or his honorable discharge. The Marine Times recently published an article on Marine policy regarding tattoos. The Corps seeks to discourage full-sleeve tattoos and tattoos above the neck. They are regarded as unprofessional in appearance and may incorporate gang-related symbols. "Worried Mom's" son likely knew the guidelines.

The mother said her son is bored and lacks focus in college. This suggests he may have PTSD. His desire to enlist in the French Foreign Legion may have short-term gains, but it may also compound mental health problems.

MARC IN SOUTH ORANGE, N.J.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The nonsense about joining the French Foreign Legion shows that the young man lacks maturity. He chose to get the tattoos; he can either have laser removal or live with his decision. He wants to be a Marine and is crying about a regulation he does not like? That is definitely not Marine quality! It appears he needs a serious dose of maturity.

CHRIS IN INDEPENDENCE, MO.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The French Foreign Legion is a rational choice for this bored veteran of two tours in Iraq. After three five-year enlistments, he will be eligible to retire. Plus, the legion will prepare him for a civilian occupation.

He will be able to live in France after only one enlistment, which gives him the benefits of the French medical system. Many employers in Europe prefer to hire ex-legionnaires. The legion also has a history of teaching its recruits how to speak enough French to get along.

How do I know this? My brother joined the FFL at age 35. Wish I had, too.

CHARLES IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Currently, the Australian forces are expanding and are unable to fill their ranks with their own citizens, so they are recruiting members from other nations. The mission of the Australian military is similar to the U.S. military. As a member of the Australian forces, he would be defending the same ideals as the U.S. military. I retired from the U.S. Navy last year and seriously considered doing this, too.

RETIRED NAVY, REDMOND, ORE.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: This young man, like our son, is clearly experiencing the effects of PTSD. The impact of this disorder on our servicemen affects their ability to readjust to civilian life and move forward with positive life planning. The signs of PTSD can be subtle, but they are very real. The man in that letter needs professional help. His injuries, while not physically obvious, require attention.

CONCERNED PARENTS

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Lopez, Kardashian to host 'The X Factor'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mario Lopez and Khloe Kardashian Odom are officially joining "The X Factor."

After weeks of speculation, Fox announced Tuesday that the "Extra" host and the "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" co-star will indeed host the second season of the talent competition. Lopez and Odom will first appear as hosts during the show's live broadcasts next month, the network said.

"The worst kept secret in Hollywood is out," said "X Factor" creator and judge Simon Cowell in a statement. "Mario and Khloe are our hosts. They will debut on our first live show in November, and I couldn't be happier."

British television personality

Steve Jones served as the sole host for the first season of the U.S. edition of the show.

The addition of Lopez and Kardashian is the latest shift for the underperforming singing contest. Britney Spears and Demi Lovato joined Cowell and L.A. Reid on "The X Factor" judging panel at the start of the second season. The pair replaced Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger.

"I'm very excited to be joining 'The X Factor' team," said Lopez, who has also hosted MTV's

"America's Best Dance Crew" for the past seven seasons. "I love the show, and I've been a big fan of Simon Cowell and the judges for a long time. Khloe and I have been friends

for years, and I know we'll be a great team and have a blast." The current second season of "X Factor" is earning solid ratings for Fox, but NBC's "The Voice" continues to perform better. Last week, 12.55 million people watched "The Voice," while "X Factor" was seen by 9.71 million, according to the Nielsen Co.



Lopez



Odom



AP

In this undated handout photo released by Adidas NEO Label, singer Justin Bieber poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

AP source: Beyonce set for Super Bowl halftime

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce will take the stage at the halftime show of the American football championship Super Bowl on Feb. 3, 2013, at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, a source told The Associated Press.

The source spoke on condition of anonymity because that person wasn't authorized to publicly reveal the information.

The official announcement is expected Wednesday, the source said.

Beyonce, whose pop and R&B hits include "Crazy in Love," "Irreplaceable" and "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)," has won 16 Grammy Awards. The 31-year-old sang the national anthem at Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004 in her hometown of Houston when the New England Patriots defeated the Carolina Panthers.

Madonna performed at halftime at this year's Super Bowl in February with guests CeeLo Green, Nicki Minaj, LMFAO and M.I.A. The New York Giants beat the New England Patriots in a thrilling rematch of the contest four years earlier. Her performance was seen by 114 million people, a higher average than the game itself, which was seen by an estimated 111.3 million people, according to the Nielsen Co.



AP

This May 7, 2012 file photo shows Beyonce Knowles at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit, celebrating Elsa Schiaparelli and Miuccia Prada in New York.

If Beyonce's performance at the Pepsi NFL Halftime Show features collaborations, it could likely include husband-rapper Jay-Z and her Destiny's Child bandmates Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams.

New Orleans last hosted a Super

Bowl in 2002, making next year's game the first NFL championship in the city since Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of the Louisiana Superdome in 2005. Pepsi is returning as the sponsor for the halftime show since doing so in 2007 when Prince performed.

Picasso, Monets stolen in Dutch heist

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Thieves broke into a Rotterdam museum on Tuesday and walked off with works from the likes of Picasso, Monet, Gauguin and Matisse potentially worth hundreds of millions.

Police haven't said how they pulled off the early hours heist, but an expert who tracks stolen art said the robbers clearly knew what they were after.

"Those thieves got one hell of a haul," said Chris Marinello, who directs the Art Loss Register.

The heist at the Kunsthall museum is one of the largest in years in the Netherlands, and is a stunning blow for the private Triton Foundation collection, which was being exhibited publicly as a group for the first time.

"It's every museum director's worst nightmare," said Kunsthall director Emily Ansenk, who had been in Istanbul on business but returned immediately.

News of the theft "struck like a bomb," she said at a press conference in the museum's cafe.

She declined to reveal any details of how the thieves got in and out with the paintings, or how the museum is protected, other than describing its security as "state of the art" and "functional."

Willem van Hassel, the museum's chairman, said its security systems are automated, and do not use guards on site.

Police arrived at the scene five minutes after an alarm was triggered, he said. He described the museum's insurance as ad-

equate for the exhibition.

The collection was on display as part of celebrations surrounding the museum's 20th anniversary.

Police spokeswoman Willemieke Romijn said investigators were reviewing videotapes of the theft, which took place around 3 a.m. local time. She called on any witnesses to come forward with information.

The Art Loss Register's Marinello said the items taken could be worth "hundreds of millions of euros" if sold legally at auction. However, he said that was now impossible.

Interpol sent a bulletin alerting member countries to the theft, along with images of the stolen paintings.

They were: Pablo Picasso's 1971 "Harlequin's Head"; Claude Monet's 1901 "Waterloo Bridge, London" and "Charing Cross Bridge, London"; Henri Matisse's 1919 "Reading Girl in White and Yellow"; Paul Gauguin's 1898 "Girl in Front of Open Window"; Meyer de Haan's "Self-Portrait," around 1890, and Lucian Freud's 2002 work "Woman with Eyes Closed."

Marinello said the thieves have limited options available. They may try to seek a ransom from the owners, the museum or the insurers. They could also conceivably sell the paintings in the criminal market—but only for a fraction of their true worth.

He said the idea that an unscrupulous private investor might have commissioned the works' theft was far-fetched.

Pastimes

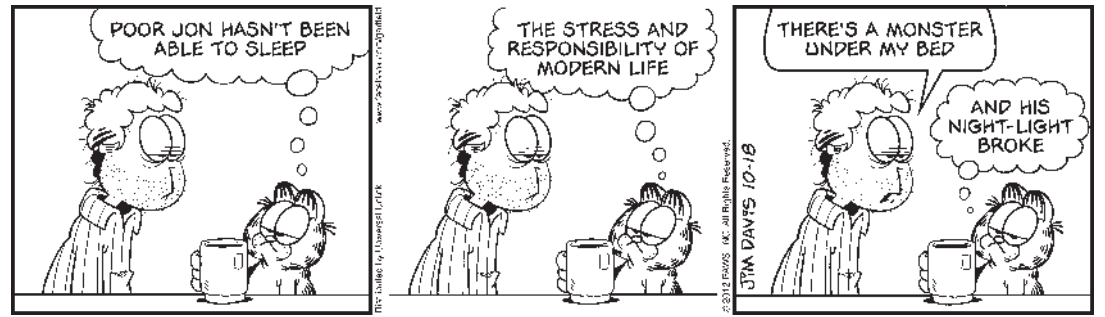
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

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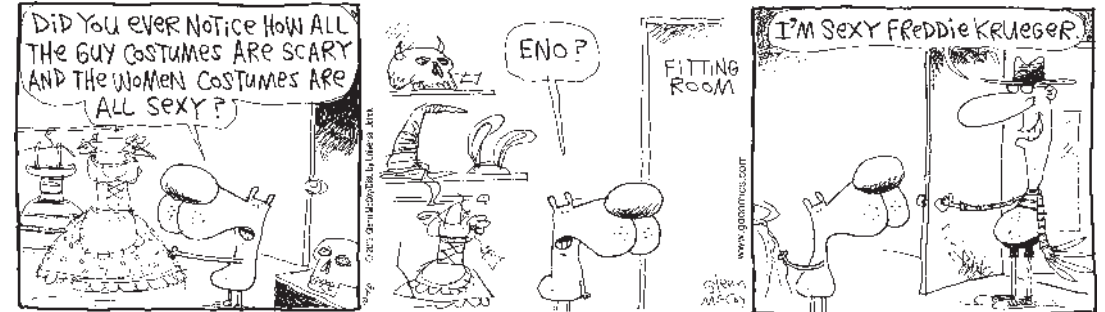
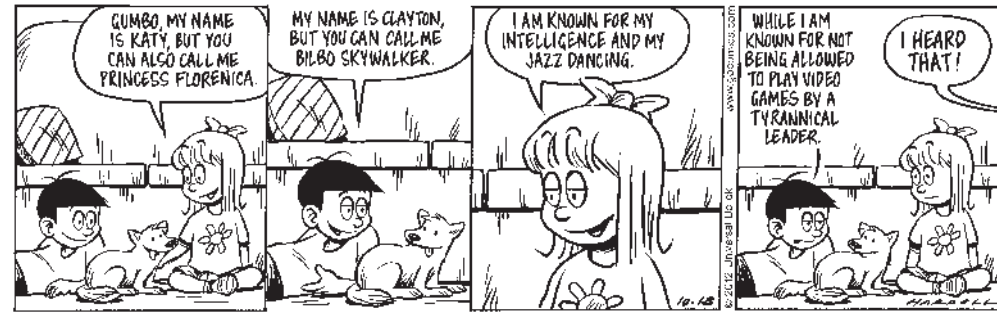


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Final for one

5 Recipe meas.

8 Foolproof

12 Eastern potentate (Var.)

13 Carnival city

14 Slaughter of baseball

15 Parks at a bus stop?

16 Japanese sash

17 Gallon fraction

18 Hands-on-hips

20 Small combo

22 Women's wear

26 Wander off

29 Height of fashion?

30 Bother

31 Addict

32 Supporting

33 Cruising

34 Aries

35 Despondent

36 Square dance group

37 "It's a Wonderful Life" director

DOWN

3 Emphatic assent in Acapulco

4 It gets a load from a lode

5 Scout group

6 Bro or sis

7 "Lilies of the Field" actor

8 Brown tone

9 Norma Rae, for one

10 Paul of politics

11 Superlative ending

19 Chesapeake, e.g.

21 Spinning stat

23 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff

24 Genealogy chart

25 Old card game

26 Look for a website

27 Despot

28 Digitize an old LP, e.g.

32 Bit of trivia

33 College life

35 Tackle moguls

36 4-Down contents

38 Eccentric

39 Pleased with oneself

42 "American —"

43 City in India

44 Loretta of country music

45 Periodical, for short

46 Lawyers' org.

48 Thanks-giving mo.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 25; Esperanza Spalding, 28; Freida Pinto, 28; Wynton Marsalis, 51.

Happy Birthday: Do what you say and you won't have a problem. Aggressive behavior, networking and strategizing will bring results. Financial opportunity is within reach, but you must be on top of your game. Trust your own judgment. Don't follow the crowd. Observe competition very closely. Protect your assets. Your numbers are 6, 11, 19, 24, 26, 31, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for a little excitement. Traveling in search of knowledge or meeting new people from different backgrounds will lead to an adventure. However, as much as you desire change, you must not make an impulsive decision or move. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do whatever it takes to improve your personal life. Travel plans or socializing with friends will lead to higher self-esteem and greater confidence. Use past experience to recognize an opportunity and leap into action. Love is in the stars. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A straightforward approach to what you've been asked to do will be necessary if you don't want to be criticized for your tardiness. Too much detail will be just as unacceptable as too little. You must strive to balance whatever you do. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Follow through with your promises and enjoy the praise you deserve. Love is on the rise. Making a subtle change at home that will enhance your surroundings or setting the stage

for romance will pay off, as well as boost your confidence. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may have the energy and the passion to take on a challenge, but expect to face a very worthy opponent. Precision and knowledge coupled with quick wit and action will determine who wins. Join forces with someone who complements your skills. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will learn a great deal from the people you interact with. Don't let an emotional connection you have with someone upset your plans. Consider what you can do to improve your outlook and your physical appearance. Professionalism will be required. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Talks will lead to information that will encourage you to expand some of your interests. What you have to offer will turn out to be a viable source of income in the future if you dedicate time and effort to honing your skills. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Have fun. Show how creative, imaginative and spontaneous you can be. Romance is apparent, and plans to meet someone new or enhance your current relationship should be in the works. A personal change will lift your spirits. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Too much of anything will be your downfall. Don't make promises you cannot keep or share information that is not verified. The changes you make at home will help encourage you to alter your lifestyle and enhance your well-being. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Determination and hard work will pay off. Take on responsibilities that allow you to show your attributes. You can secure your position by handling whatever arises without making a fuss or showing frustration. Expertise will count. Love, romance and commitment are highlighted. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take your time. Don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision. Work at home and on self-improvement and enhancing your personal relationships. A change in status or vocational direction will lead to bigger and better opportunities. Avoid excess. ★★★★★

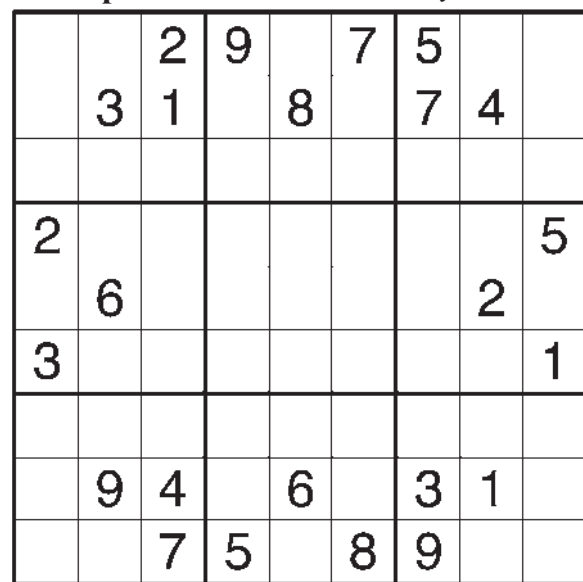
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your emotions in check. Arguments will not solve problems, but finding solutions that suit everyone's needs in a manner that is civil will make an impression on someone that may have overlooked your talents in the past. ★★

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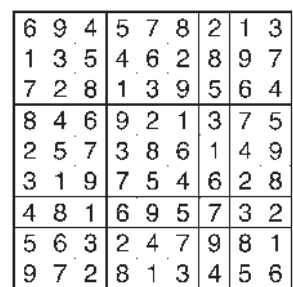
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

10/13

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

Solution: 8 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Twizzlers
To solve THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 send \$6.95 plus \$3.00 handling charge to: Universal Uclick, Inc., P.O. Box 518, Hightstown, NJ 08520. For more information, visit www.wonderword.com. © 2012 Universal Uclick, Inc.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

LIANGXIANG L. HEMLEY Petitioner,)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0080
vs.)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
JAMESON P. HEMLEY Respondent.)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 502592** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

ErJiangLi Guan Manglona Petitioner,)	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0448
vs.)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Nobert King Manglona Respondent.)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **PMB 1266 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

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Tigers top Yankees to move closer to AL title



DETROIT

(AP)—Justin Verlander and Detroit's stellar starters are on quite a roll - no matter who is in the opposing lineup.

Verlander took a shutout into the ninth inning and the Tigers held on to beat New York 2-1 Tuesday night for a 3-0 lead in the AL championship series. Yankees manager Joe Girardi changed his batting order again, benching Alex Rodriguez and Nick Swisher in an effort to snap his team out of an untimely hitting funk.

No such luck.

"I have seen a lot of teams shuffle around a lot of lineups when I am out there, so it doesn't really faze me one way or the other if those guys are in there or not," Verlander said. "I just need to come up with the game plan to face the certain guys that I am going to face. I can't say I was surprised, but that's Girardi's decision, not mine."

Phil Coke gave up consecutive singles with two outs in the ninth before striking out postseason star Raul Ibanez for his second save in two games. Detroit can complete a sweep and earn its second pennant in seven years Wednesday night when Max Scherzer pitches against Yankees ace CC Sabathia.

"We put ourselves in a decent position, but that's all we have done," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said.

Verlander allowed only a pair of singles by Ichiro Suzuki and a leadoff homer by Eduardo Nunez in the ninth. Delmon Young hit a solo home run for the Tigers, and Miguel Cabrera had an RBI double.

Yankees starter Phil Hughes was lifted in the fourth because of a stiff back, but right now it's the Yankees' hitting that has them on the brink of elimination. New York is batting .182 for the series and .200 during the postseason.

"There were some good at-bats tonight. The ball was not carrying tremendously well tonight, we know that," Girardi said. "But I think he ended up with three strikeouts. So our guys put the ball in play and tried to get on base, but, you know, when you face Verlander, you know what you're up against."

Seeking their first World Series title since 1984, the Tigers were on a historic pitching run even before their ace took the mound Tuesday. With the exception of a four-run ninth inning against Detroit closer Jose Valverde in Game 1, New York had been shut out for the entire series.

Nunez's homer snapped a scoreless streak by Detroit starters of 30 1-3 innings. That's a record for a single postseason, according to STATS LLC. The previous mark of 29 innings was set by Oakland in 1974.

Giants' Bochy rejects retaliation talk heading into Game 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Giants manager Bruce Bochy expects Marco Scutaro to be in his lineup card for Game 3 of the NL championship series, two days after St. Louis slugger Matt Holliday plowed into the San Francisco second baseman.

"I think so. It feels much better," Scutaro said Tuesday night after participating in a workout at Busch Stadium. "I thought it was going to be worse. Normally, the next day is when you feel it the most."

Neither seemed too interested in any talk of retaliation.

"What's on our mind is to go out and



Detroit Tigers' Justin Verlander throws in the ninth inning during Game 3 of the American League championship series against the New York Yankees Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012, in Detroit.

Verlander fell just short of a second straight shutout after stopping the Athletics in the decisive fifth game of the division series. He struck out only three but kept New York off the scoreboard until the homer to left field by Nunez, the first run allowed by the powerful right-hander since he gave up a leadoff homer to Coco Crisp in Game 1 of the ALDS.

Nunez was at shortstop because Der-

ek Jeter broke his ankle in Game 1 and will miss the rest of the season.

Verlander got Brett Gardner on a tapper before he was lifted after 132 pitches, one shy of his career high set in Game 5 of last year's ALCS against Texas.

"Normally I guess you don't take Secretariat out in the final furlong, but that was pretty much it for him," Leyland said.

play our best ball," Bochy said Tuesday night, a day before the best-of-seven series resumes at Busch Stadium with the Giants and St. Louis Cardinals tied at one game apiece. "That's over. You have to move on."

Scutaro said a shutout from Matt Cain would be perfect and knew nothing about get-even plans. If Matt Holliday approached him before the game, he joked that the Cardinals slugger would be in for a fight.

The recollection of the play was vivid.

"All of a sudden, I just saw this train

coming," he said. "I didn't have time to do pretty much anything. I don't even know how I threw the ball to first, but I think I did, huh?"

He added that if Holliday had slid any farther, "probably you're going to make it to shortstop."

Results of an MRI exam showed Scutaro has a strained left hip after Holliday's late slide while busting up a double play. Bochy said Scutaro also had a sore left knee, and the manager had planned on holding him out of practice after the team flight arrived from the West Coast.

Coke came in and allowed two-out hits to Mark Teixeira and Robinson Cano, with the latter snapping a drought of 29 at-bats without a hit.

An anxious Verlander paced in the dugout and rubbed the bald head of a teammate before Ibanez, who hit tying and winning homers in the same game in the ALDS against Baltimore and tied Game 1 of this series with a homer in the ninth, struck out swinging at a breaking ball to end it.

"I've got faith in our bullpen. Coke did a great job in New York. He's done a great job for us all year, so I was OK with it," Verlander said. "And I was up around 130 pitches or so, so I don't think they're just going to leave me out there and sacrifice the rest of the postseason just for this game, especially when Coke's been throwing the ball extremely well."

The game ended with Nick Swisher on deck to pinch-hit, not Rodriguez. Girardi said he let Ibanez bat because he has been coming through with big hits and he figured the Tigers could replace Coke with right-hander Joaquin Benoit if a pinch-hitter came up.

Rodriguez also was benched for Game 5 against Baltimore after he was pulled for pinch-hitters in the previous two games. A-Rod is 3 for 23 (.130) without an RBI or extra-base hit this postseason, his latest October flop. The numbers are especially ugly against right-handers: 0 for 18 with 12 strikeouts.

The three-time AL MVP was not available to reporters before or after

the game.

Verlander, the reigning AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner, nearly became the first pitcher in 24 years to throw consecutive shutouts in the postseason, according to STATS LLC. Orel Hersher did it for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1988, blanking the New York Mets in Game 7 of the NL championship series and the Oakland Athletics in Game 2 of the World Series.

"We're being hopeful he can go," Bochy said. "I will say he's more optimistic about where he's at right now than when it first happened."

Cain, who will face fellow 16-game winner Kyle Lohse, said little about any possible animosity. Cain added that he wouldn't be afraid to throw inside against Holliday.

"You've got to go out there and pitch your game," Cain said. "If something gets away from me inside, that's kind of part of the game. You can't have a fear of doing that."

Yankees' slump defies explanation

DETROIT (AP)—If there were a quick and easy solution, surely this bunch would have figured it out by now.

Alex Rodriguez has over 600 home runs. Curtis Granderson hit 43 during the regular season. Robinson Cano is one of the best all-around players in the game.

The three of them are trapped in the throes of batting slumps at the worst possible time, and the rest of the New York Yankees haven't been much better.

"There is no explanation sometimes in baseball," first baseman Mark Teixeira said.

Put it this way: How is it possible that St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Chris Carpenter, a career .118 hitter, has as many hits in the last two postseasons as A-Rod? More extra-base hits for Carpenter, too.

Like a golfer with the shanks during a major tournament, the Yankees have looked helpless at the plate in the biggest games of the season. They were hitting .205 in these playoffs as they prepared for Game 3 of the AL championship series Tuesday night. New York lost the first two games to the Detroit Tigers.

Shortstop Derek Jeter is injured, and aside from unsung outfielder Raul Ibanez and Teixeira, New York's power hitters have seemed lost. It's the type of October swoon that can derail a season, and no team is ever really safe.

"It's a tough game. No matter what kind of career - what kind of lineup you throw out there - you're going to have those times when it's not clicking," said St. Louis manager Mike Matheny, whose team is playing San Francisco in the NLCS. "You've just got to battle through those times, because they're bound to happen."

Rodriguez is 3 for 23 in the playoffs. Over the last two postseasons, he has five hits - the same number as Carpenter. Manager Joe Girardi has pinch hit for A-Rod late in games and left him out of the starting lineup Tuesday for the second time in less than a week.

Granderson is 3 for 26 in these playoffs. Cano's collapse is even more startling. The second baseman finished the regular season on a 24-for-39 tear, but he's 2 for 32 since then and was hitless in his last 26 at-bats entering Tuesday, a record for a single postseason.

Nick Swisher (4 for 26) and Russell Martin (5 for 26) aren't producing either, and Swisher was also out of the starting lineup Tuesday. The Yankees won a key game in the division series against Baltimore when Ibanez hit a pair of late homers, and he hit another in Game 1 versus Detroit during a four-run ninth inning against struggling closer Jose Valverde. That was the only real highlight for the New York offense lately.

Dempsey sends US to World Cup qualifier finals



KANSASCITY, Kan.

(AP)—Clint Dempsey is precisely the kind of scrappy player that Jurgen Klinsmann covets on his teams, an attacker who is willing to throw his body around for the greater good.

On Tuesday night, the rest of the United States team played just like him.

Dempsey had a pair of goals and assisted on Carlos Bocanegra's equalizer, and the U.S. finally showed some of the gritty, proactive style Klinsmann has been preaching to rally past Guatemala 3-1 and reach next year's final round of World Cup qualifying.

"They understood the moment," said Klinsmann, who has eschewed the defensive style embraced by former U.S. coach Bob Bradley for one predicated on always moving forward.

"We expected a very difficult qualifying campaign, and that's what this is," Klinsmann said. "We made clear we're the number one team in this group and the next round will be harder."

Facing their first elimination game in qualifying since 2000 and only second in 23 years, the Americans needed merely a draw to advance to the six-team finals in North and Central America and the Caribbean. The final round also will include Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Jamaica.

After Carlos Ruiz put Guatemala ahead in the fifth minute, Dempsey set up Bocanegra's goal in the 10th minute, then scored in the 18th and 36th to help the U.S. (4-1-1) - seeking its seventh straight World Cup appearance - top its semifinal group with 13 points.

"We're excited to get to the next round," said Dempsey, whose 30 international goals are tied with Brian McBride for third-most in American history. "But we know we need to step up our game."

Guatemala, which has never appeared in a World Cup, needed only a tie to advance, but was eliminated when Dane Richards scored two goals late in the second half in Jamaica's 4-1 win over Antigua and Barbuda. Guatemala and Jamaica were both 3-2-1 for 10 points apiece, but the Reggae Boyz overtook Guatemala on goal difference, plus-3 to plus-1.

Guatemala coach Ever Hugo Almeida declined to attend a post-game news conference.



U.S. forward Clint Dempsey leaps for the ball between Guatemala midfielder Carlos Figueroa (18) and defender Jonathan Lopez (23) during the first half of a World Cup qualifying soccer match in Kansas City, Kan., Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012. AP

"This was my last game," the 33-year-old Ruiz said. "I want to thank all the team, my family, my fans in Guatemala for all their support. It hurts not to go to a World Cup as a player but I will try to be with my national team in any other ways."

The U.S. dictated the pace from the opening minute, appearing far more aggressive than it did while struggling to a 2-1 victory over Antigua on a muddy cricket pitch last Friday.

Still, Los Chapines caused tension when they scored in the opening minutes.

Jose Contreras took possession in the midfield and sent a looping pass ahead to Ruiz, who managed to beat Bocanegra to the ball as Geoff Cameron was caught upfield. Ruiz rounded goalkeeper Tim Howard and side-footed the ball into the goal.

As if a harbinger, Ruiz appeared to hurt himself seconds after scoring.

He reached out to steady himself on the electronic signage near the field, and may have sliced his hand. He grimaced and immediately began shaking it while

a trainer rushed out to tend to him.

The tying goal came just a few minutes later.

Sporting KC midfielder Graham Zusi, playing in his home stadium, sent a corner kick arcing into the penalty area, and Dempsey got just enough of it at the near post to redirect to Bocanegra, who was left alone by Manuel Leon near the far post and easily found the back of the net.

It was Bocanegra's 14th goal with the national team, moving him past Marcelo Balboa for the most among American defenders. It also generated a roar from a sellout crowd of 16,947 that would have been much larger if officials could have sold standing-room tickets.

"We were never going to give up today," Bocanegra said. "We knew we were going to get goals quickly and we got three of them."

The second came after Ruiz sent a header over the crossbar, and the American came on the counterattack. The ball was pushed ahead to Eddie Johnson on the wing, and he found Dempsey cutting to the net ahead of

defender Jonathan Lopez, his goal giving the U.S. a 2-1 lead.

Johnson picked up an assist to go with the two goals he scored against Antigua in his first international appearance in two years.

Guatemala had a couple of other good scoring chances later in the half, including a shot by Contreras from a sharp angle that Howard knocked away, and a breakaway on which Ruiz was called for a foul on defender Steve Cherundolo near the top of the penalty area.

Cherundolo tried to shake hands with Ruiz, who was having none of it.

"We were just discussing what we were going to do after the game," Cherundolo said, smiling.

The U.S. pressure paid off again in the 36th minute, when Michael Brad-

ley popped a pass over the sprawled-out Jerez and Dempsey tapped the ball across. Dempsey nearly had a hat trick when he just missed on a header early in the second half.

"It felt good after we got off to a slow start," Dempsey said. "It helps your confidence to get a couple of goals."

Failing to qualify for the World Cup would have been devastating for the U.S., still trying to regain the confidence it had when reaching the 2002 quarterfinals. The final round starts March 22.

"I think it's always better when you have very meaningful games and you have to prove yourself," Klinsmann said. "When there's something at stake, like a World Cup qualifier, they know they have to be spot on."

Fisher may head back to Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's flirted with the Chicago Bulls and the Oklahoma City Thunder, but veteran guard Derek Fisher has always seemed like a "Los Angeles or bust"-sorta guy. The road-

block between that eventual destination and the free-agent guard's current status, it was presumed, is the NBA bylaw that states that Fisher can't re-sign with the Los Angeles Lakers until next March, while he technically is being paid for the final year of a 2012-13 he was bought out from last spring, following a deal that sent Fisher to Houston.

Now, ESPN reported it appears as if the final year of that deal was never able to be latched on to by Fisher and his reps, and as a result he could sign with the Lakers whenever they see fit. If they see fit. He fits, to be sure, but the Lakers aren't sure if he'll actually fit on an already-packed team bus, to say nothing of their monstrous payroll.

The NBA's new labor agreement stipulates that a player traded and then waived by the team that acquired him can't re-sign with his original team for one year or until the traded contract runs out -- whichever comes first. But in Fisher's case, confusion surround-

ing his player option for the 2012-13 season led to the belief in some league circles that he had picked up the option before the Houston Rockets bought him out. In reality, sources confirm, Fisher was bought out by Houston before he was eligible to invoke the 2012-13 option, which means that his contract was deemed to have ended June 30, sending Fisher to full-fledged free agency on July 1.

For the third time in his career, Fisher could end up on a bench next to a player in Kobe Bryant that he debuted with as a rookie all the way back in 1996.

The problem for Los Angeles, and potentially Fisher, is that the team is pretty well stacked at point guard. Not only do they boast the all-world talents of Steve Nash in Fisher's former starting spot, but career backups Steve Blake and Chris Duhon are also stuck to the bench. Both are on the trade market, but it's hard to see any team (no matter how desperate) dealing even that infamous conditional second-round pick for the last two years and \$8 million on Blake's contract, and Duhon may have played the worst basketball of any player in the NBA last year. That's not us being cruel, Duhon is struggling that much.

Falcons soar to top of AP Pro 32 power rankings



NEW YORK (AP)—A close call on the field, a clear win in the AP Pro32 NFL power rankings.

The Atlanta Falcons soared to the top of the rankings Tuesday after a 23-20 win over the Oakland Raiders left them as the league's only unbeaten team.

Atlanta (6-0) received 11 of the 12 first-place votes and 381 points from The Associated Press panel of media members who regularly cover the NFL.

"Good things always bode well for the last undefeated team standing," Chris Berman of ESPN said after the Falcons won another close game, this time on Matt Bryant's 55-yard field goal with a second left.

Then again, there's still a nonbeliever. "Undefeated, but they don't pass the eye test for being the best team," notes Clifton Brown of Sporting News after ranking the Falcons fourth with the

New York Giants on top.

The Giants moved up five spots to second with one first-place vote and 364 points after a 26-3 win over San Francisco. The Baltimore Ravens were third with 352 points.

The Houston Texans, who held the top spot for three weeks before their first loss, 42-24 to Green Bay, were fourth, followed by the 49ers.

The Falcons became the fifth team to be ranked No. 1 this season. The others were Green Bay, New England, San Francisco and Houston.

Voters were impressed with the way the Giants came into San Francisco and dominated a team looking to avenge its overtime loss to New York in the NFC championship game last season.

"From an offense/defense/special teams standpoint, New York's 26-3 win at San Francisco was the most impressive victory posted by any team this season," said Alex Marvez of Fox-

sports.com.

Added Berman: "THAT'S why they're the defending champs."

Although the Ravens are third, there's concern about how they will fare with star linebacker Ray Lewis and cornerback Lardarius Webb out for the season with injuries.

"Talk about a Pyrrhic victory. That Dallas game may have cost the Ravens more than they ever thought possible," said Clark Judge of CBSSports.com.

On the upswing are Seattle, Denver and Washington.

The Redskins and Seahawks each moved up six spots after big wins. Washington was 13th after its win over Minnesota and the Seattle was ninth after its win over New England.

"This is a dangerous team with a nasty defense and a smooth rookie QB," Pat Kirwan of CBSSports.com/Sirius XM said of the Seahawks. "Big, big game Thursday night against the 49ers."

Mobil wallops Servitek in Emon Lodge caging

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



No Jun Estolas and Marvin Rabauliman. No problem for Mobil.

Mobil still coasted to victory over Servitek, 99-76, in the first game in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup despite the absence of the former's two key players last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ron Gamboa and Errol Peredo stepped up in place of Estolas and Rabauliman, combining for 51 big points in their 23-point rout of Servitek. Mobil went on to finish the regular season with a 7-1 record, tying Pacific Islands Club, but the former dropped to second and lost the pennant

race, as it absorbed its lone defeat in the league at the hands of the latter.

Servitek completed the regular season winless in 9 game and though it was already eliminated as early as two weeks ago, the league's cellar dweller managed to give Mobil a run for its money in the first period.

The opening canto ended in a tie, 22-all, with JP Jose coming out smoking for Servitek, firing 12 points. Mobil was shaky at the start of the match with two of its starters out and Emir Abuan was forced to carry the team with his 10 markers.

Then in the second quarter, Mobil smelled blood, as Gamboa and Peredo began to take over in absence of Estolas and Rabauliman. Mobil outgunned Servitek in the second, 22-6, with Peredo and Gamboa teaming up for 13 points.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jomary Tumaquip, seen here pulling up for a jumper against a Hi-Five defender in their previous game, scored 10 points in Mobil's 99-76 rout of Servitek during the first match in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Gamboa was not done yet, as he had a breakout game in the third, drilling four triples and finishing with 16 markers in that period alone to outscore the entire Servitek crew, which collected only 14. Adding Peredo's 8 and the contributions of four other Mobil players, coach Marvin Deocares' wards rose to a 74-49 lead to secure the win with still one quarter to go.

Gamboa top-scored for Mobil with his 28 points, while Peredo added 23. Jose paced Servitek with his 22 markers.

Armatech 83, Fong's Bakery 75

In the second game, Armatech held Fong's Bakery to three field goals in the fourth quarter to steal the 8-point victory.

Fong's controlled majority of the game and was still on top at the end of the third period, 66-63, when it collapsed

in the payoff canto, making only 9 points against the 20 of Armatech.

Six players teamed up in Armatech's fourth-quarter rally, while only Lero Pagarao and Sonny Lero lit up the scoreboard for Fong's in the final canto. Pagarao drilled all of Fong's three field goals and scored 7 of their total points in the fourth, while Lero canned two charities.

Elmer Esdrelon tallied 6 points in the fourth and three of his teammates contributed at least two baskets apiece to give Armatech a come-from-behind win.

Armatech finished the regular season at seventh place with its 2-6 record and will be paired against Mobil in the first round of the single-elimination playoffs this Saturday at 6:30pm. Fong's (1-6) took the last playoff berth and will duel the top-

ranked PIC, also this Saturday.

The two other playoff games in the first round set for Tuesday, Oct. 23, will have the No. 3 Ashley's/Brabu (6-2) meeting the No. 6 Archers (3-5) at 6:30pm and the No. 4 Hoopaholics (5-3) and No. 5 Hi-Five (5-3) colliding at 8pm.

First Game

Mobil 99—Gamboa 28, Peredo 23, Abuan 10, Tumaquip 10, Camacho 7, Sharry 6, Gapor 6, Ruloked 2, Basila 2.

Servitek 76—Jose 22, Kenty 20, Rio 11, Alano 7, Detera 6.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 44-28, 75-49, 99-76.

Second Game

Armatech 83—Ja. Ano 18, Esdrelon 12, Berline 10, Guiab 10, Tobias 10, Montano 6, Je. Ano 6, Trajano 4.

Fong's Bakery 75—Pagarao 27, De Leon 14, Diaz 10, Caro 8, Lero 7, Catalas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-20, 42-43, 66-63, 83-75.

DODGERS

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slate and are behind the Orioles (10-3). Rockies are bringing up the rear with a dismal 2-10 card.

Jhace Palacios led off for the visiting Dodgers and was hit by a pitch, but shook it off, stole second base, and made it all the way around off an error in the infield. The blunder came after a base knock by Jerald Cabrera

who was, in turn, doubled to the dish by Jordan Pangelinan for a 2-0 lead.

The Reds went three up and three down in the bottom side against Dodgers' starting pitcher Brian Camacho and the dealer's little brother, Nathan Camacho, hooked up with Joseph Atalig for another run at the start of the second inning.

Atalig led off the second with a base hit and ended up all the way at third base, thanks to a couple of

errors, and Nathan Camacho followed suit with an RBI single.

The Reds were held at second base in the bottom frame and the Dodgers trotted further ahead, 5-0, in the third inning off a leadoff double by Ton Guerrero and some more errors.

The Reds' Khobby Kaipat was called to the hump for Ian Rogolifo with one out in the frame and left the Dodgers on the corners, which may have fired up the crew to get their bats

going in the bottom portion.

The Reds trimmed the deficit to 3-5 in the bottom of the third inning off an RBI single by Kaipat and a couple of errors. Keene Guerrero led off the blip with a walk and scored, Jon Camacho singled on and was escorted home by Kaipat, and Cody Kaipat hustled out a dropped third strike and made a break for the plate off another error before the Dodgers could get a grip.

However, the Dodgers got

their acts together immediately. They nailed 10 runs in the top of the fourth inning, as the Reds' second reliever, Kainoa Wan- ket, was just lit up from the start with the Dodgers cranking out eight hits that yielded a 15-3 separation. Pangelinan, Atalig, and Joseph Tydingco all bagged RBI singles and Carl Camacho hammered a two-RBI bash, while the other runs came via errors and an RBI walk.

Atalig entered the game with

one out in the third inning and gave up two runs out of the gate before settling down nicely when he came out to close the fourth inning, fanned the first two batters, and got a pop up to first base. He had ice in his veins late in the game and went full steam through the Reds, 1-2-3, on the mound to secure the early decision.

The Reds were held to two hits, while 11 different Dodgers managed at least one.

SMITH

From Page 24

champion went on to finish No. 6 in the men's 18 to 29 age group, missing the podium by only one second.

Only the Top 5 finishers in each age group were recognized at the awards ceremony of the event in Tumon and the No. 5 placer (Japan's Shingo Sato) timed in at 1:27:18.

Smith, who was ahead of the No. 1 female finisher (Guam's Amy Atkinson/1:28:05), could have beaten Sato or the two other finishers ahead of him if not for his broken shoes.

"I brought two pairs of running shoes with me to the race. My main pair was about

4 months old that I bought in the Philippines for \$10 from a guy on the street. I was eating breakfast at an outdoor restaurant in Manila and he showed me some shoes that happened to be my size so I took a break from my pork adobo and bought them. My secondary pair was about 11 years old that I ran with in high school track and cross-country. On the day before the race, I went hiking with the boonie stompers group in Guam in my main pair and the bottom of one shoe completely fell through," Smith said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"So I used my secondary pair, which fared better but not by much. The shoes laces came undone right after the start and then about halfway through, the

bottom started flapping about loosely," he added.

Despite his misfortunes, Smith soldiered on for a remarkable debut in the annual race named after the flightless bird endemic to Guam.

"There was no question I was going to finish the race. I would have ran barefoot if needed. I put in three months of hard training for the half marathon, and my diet and activity schedule revolved around my training. I gave up playing ultimate frisbee with friends, happy hours and wine Wednesdays all for the sake of maximizing my preparation for the race," Smith said.

Smith joined three other Saipan runners—Joshua (2:11:54) and Mamiko Berger

(1:34:00), and Jack Kabiriel (1:42:04)—in the Guam Ko'Ko' and also met with former Saipan residents Mieke Carey (1:39:52) and Matthew Mancao (1:44:33) at the starting line at the Gov. Joseph Flores Memorial Park at Ypao Beach. Smith and company were greeted by the perfect weather early morning, a big relief for runners, who were worried about the course as it had been raining in Guam the past few days before the Sunday race.

"The race started at 5am sharp so it was dark with a nice breeze and no rain. It rained hard the night before the race so the road was wet and slick, which was slightly worrisome on the long downhill slope towards the finish line, but fortunately no prob-

lems occurred. The course itself was well marked and it was nice that three adjacent lanes of traffic were blocked off for runners so there was plenty of room to run and no worries about encroachment of vehicles. There were nice views of the ocean for about half of the course. And the best part was the large amount of race supporters along the way shouting out words of encouragement, which often included 'Go Saipan!' since I was wearing my 'I heart Saipan' t-shirt," Smith said.

"The toughest part of the race was the hill at about the 11th mile. It was a fairly easy hill but after running 11 hard miles, it was quite tough," he added.

The Saipan runner aimed at completing the race at the

1:20:00 mark, but despite missing his target, he is still happy with his debut.

"I am still happy with my time because it represents the product of a lot of hard work, discipline, and support from family and friends. My biggest thanks go to Joshua and Mamiko Berger for their unwavering support. They certainly have more faith in my running abilities than I do. I also have to thank my friend Lily Mananita who supported me throughout my training. Lastly, I owe a big thanks to Larry and Elle for generously giving Lily and I keys to their Guam home and vehicle for the four days surrounding the race, which turned out to be a fantastic and adventure-filled vacation," Smith said.

SIS

From Page 24

ranted a forfeit victory over Kagman High School's Ayuyus (0-3), who have been no-shows since opening day. Kagman's absence

has skewed the standings a bit as SIS Green Geckos (2-1) and Mount Carmel School's Knights (1-2) have also been awarded unproven triumphs.

No games are set for today to give way to another league and the season will resume on Tues-

day at 4pm with SIS White taking on SSHS on the north court and MHS Yellow colliding against SIS Green on the south end. Then at 5pm, KHS is scheduled to play MHS Blue on the north end, while GCA will square off against MCS on the south court.

SIS White was in sync last Tuesday and claimed the opening set, 25-14. SIS kept its rhythm through the second set to clinch the win, 25-19, and pinned its ears back in the final set, 15-7, to secure the sweep.

MHS Blue took the first set,

25-14, but SIS Green rallied in the second set, 25-18, to even the match. However in the end, MHS Blue rebounded and captured the deciding set 15-9.

The Manta Rays and the Knights fought tooth and nail in the opening set and when the

dust cleared, SSHS had drawn first blood, 28-26. MCS gave its all in the first frame and forced it beyond regulation, but could not muster a second wind to knot up the count as SSHS sheltered the win, 25-18. The Rays went on to claim the third set, 15-11.

PROA

From Page 24

could for the next three quarters to claw back into the game and could have used the presence of a good chunk of its missing players.

Hopefully the cavalry arrives soon for Kagman, as it is scheduled to play the Chalan

Kanoa Saints (2-4) today at 5:30pm. The Saints also need to recover quickly, after forfeiting games to Hi-5 (2-3) and Rollers 2 (6-0).

In any case, tomorrow's matches start at 5:30pm with Hi-5 taking on the Sonics (5-0) and Proa facing Rollers 1 (2-2). Other U20 standings include the Oleai Ol'Aces (2-2), LD Prime (2-4), and the Agape Torchbear-

ers (0-6).

Proa spring boarded in front, 28-3, in the opening period, as Shane Diaz and Ichitaro Faisao combined for 18 points.

The hot pair took a seat in the second quarter, which helped pen up some offense for Kagman in the form of the combined 19 points of Jason Lampkin and Jesse Santos. However, Proa's second team managed to nail a

couple of three-balls to keep the large cushion intact at the half, 40-24.

Diaz and Faisao returned after the intermission and essentially delivered the knockout blows in the third quarter. The duo combined for 14 points and received support from four others to give Proa a daunting 64-40 favor, heading into the final period.

Kagman was gassed at this point of the game and could not keep up with Proa's substitution regiment. LJ Hemley and Josh Villagomez snuck into the spotlight for Proa late in the game and hooked up for a dozen checks to complete the lopsided win.

Diaz finished with a team-high 17 points for Proa, while Faisao had 15. Lampkin led all

scorers with 22.

Mariana Resort/Proa 89—Diaz 17, Faisao 15, Mettao 12, Palacios 10, Capuyon 10, Hemley 8, Villagomez 6, Manalili 6, Sanarez 6.

Kagman 52—Lampkin 22, Je. Santos 9, Palino 8, Jo. Santos 4, Jones 2, A. Santos 2, Soriano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-3, 40-24, 64-40, 89-52.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dodgers spank Reds

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The Dodgers cruised to a 16-3 run-rule victory over the Reds, as the Saipan Major League Baseball Association/Division of Youth Services' 18U Triple A Championship Youth Baseball League caught a lucky break in the weather last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The third-ranked Dodgers uncorked a 10-run explosion in the fourth inning to pull off an upset over the Reds after only five innings and improve to an even 6-6 record. The Reds remain at second place despite the defeat with their 8-7



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Brian Camacho, seen here getting ready for a swing, helped the Dodgers beat the Reds, 16-3, at the resumption of the SML's Triple A youth league at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last Tuesday night.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Proa cruises past Kagman, 89-52



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mariana Resort/Proa's Frank Mettao, right, soars through the lane for a crafty layup against a Kagman defender during their U20 game in the Rotary caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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Mariana Resort/Proa overwhelmed a short-handed Kagman, 89-52, during their U20 division game in the 2012 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Proa has now won four of its five games since opening day and is really coming into its own, while Kagman is going the other way and has bagged just one victory in five tries.

Proa suited up two full lineup changes in the match and utilized them efficiently to pick apart its opponents. The seven-man Kagman band stumbled out of the gate and fought as hard as it

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Smith leads Saipan finishers in Guam Ko'Ko'

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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A broken pair of shoes would not deny up-and-coming Saipan runner Sean Smith a strong debut in the 2012 Guam Ko'Ko' Road Race.

Smith emerged as the top Saipan finisher in last Sunday's race, completing the half marathon in 1:27:19. He placed 14th overall among 853 finishers and also 14th out of 502 male runners. The 2012 Banzai Half Marathon and SIS Fun Run

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sean Smith, right, poses with, from left, Mieke Carey, Matthew Mancao, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger at the starting line of last Sunday's Guam Ko'Ko' Road Race in Tumon.

SIS White Geckos still unbeaten

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Saipan International School's White Geckos streaked to their third win and nabbed first place in the team standings of the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization High School Boys Volleyball League after sweeping the Grace Christian Academy's Eagles last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The clutch win highlighted the third round of the season, as it served the Eagles their first loss and earned SIS White bragging rights as the lone undefeated squad in the eight-team field.

Other winners from round three include the second-ranked MHS Blue Dolphins (2-1), Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays (1-2), and MHS Yellow Dolphins (1-2), with the latter war-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Daniel Camacho fires a spike in this file photo taken during their game against Saipan International School's Green Geckos last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The Rays defeated the Mt. Carmel School night last Tuesday.